

Birth of the New Kingdom: The Spiritual Battle Between the Passover and the Cross

Matthew 26:31-56 / November 7, 2020

The Apostles' Response to Jesus' Call

Peter and Andrew: Call

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" **The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.** Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "**We have found the Messiah**" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "**You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas**" (which means Peter). (John 1:35-43)

James and John: Call

And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and **he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.** (Matthew 4:21-22)

Philip and Nathanael (Bartholomew): Call

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. **He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." **Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"** Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? **You will see greater things than these.**" And he said to him, "**Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.**" (John 1:43-51)

Matthew: Call

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "**Follow me.**" **And he rose and followed him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house,** behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: '**I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.**'" (Matthew 9:9-13)

Twelve Apostles: Appointed

And he called to him his twelve disciples and **gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.** The names of the twelve apostles are these: first,

1. **Simon**, who is called **Peter**, and **Andrew** his brother;
2. **James** the son of Zebedee, and **John** his brother;
3. **Philip** and **Bartholomew**;
4. **Thomas** and **Matthew** the tax collector;
5. **James** the son of Alphaeus, and **Thaddaeus**;
6. **Simon** the Zealot, and **Judas Iscariot**, who betrayed him. (Matthew 10:1-8)

Peter's Relationship with Jesus

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| 1. Witnesses the healing of his mother-in-law (with James, John, Andrew) | Mark 1:29 |
| 2. Fell at Jesus' feet after the miracle of the fish | Luke 5:8 |
| 3. Witnesses the resurrection of the young girl (with James and John) | Mark 5:37 |
| 4. Walks on the water | Matthew 14:28-29 |
| 5. Declares Jesus the Christ | Matthew 16:16 |
| 6. Receives the promise of the Rock | Matthew 16:8 |
| 7. Experiences the transfiguration (with James and John) | Matthew 17:1 |
| 8. Asks how often to forgive | Matthew 18:21 |
| 9. Asks Jesus privately about the last days (with James, John, Andrew) | Mark 13:3 |
| 10. Prepares Passover Meal (with John) | Luke 22:8 |

1. **Crucifixion of Jesus:** “You will all fall away because of me this night. **For it is written**, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

Zechariah

“Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, / against the man who stands next to me,” / declares the LORD of hosts. / “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; / I will turn my hand against the little ones. / **In the whole land, declares the LORD, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, / and one third shall be left alive.** / And I will put this third into the fire, / and refine them as one refines silver, / and test them as gold is tested. / They will call upon my name, / and I will answer them. / I will say, ‘They are my people’; / and they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’” (Zechariah 13:7-14:5)

Isaiah

All we like sheep have gone astray; / we have turned—every one—to his own way; / and the LORD has laid on him / the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, / yet he opened not his mouth; / like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, / and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, / so he opened not his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away; / and as for his generation, who considered / that he was cut off out of the land of the living, / stricken for the transgression of my people?

And they made his grave with the wicked / and with a rich man in his death, / although he had done no violence, / and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; / he has put him to grief; / when his soul makes an offering for guilt, / he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; / the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. (Isaiah 53:6-10)

2. **Resurrection of Jesus:** But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.”

The Angel and the Resurrected Jesus

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. **Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.** See, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” (Matthew 28:1-10)

1. OUR ARROGANT SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS	vs	JESUS' CONFRONTING TRUTH TELLING (26:33-35)
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PETER' ACTIONS

Peter answered him,

“Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

JESUS' RESPONSE

Jesus said to him,

“Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.”

PETER:

Peter said to him,

“Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same.

2. OUR SUBMISSION TO THE FLESH	vs	JESUS' OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WILL (26:36-46)
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PETER, JAMES, JOHN

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane ("olive press"), and he said to his disciples,
"Sit here, while I go over there and pray."

And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them,

"My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and **watch with me.**"

"Watch With Me"

Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, **stay awake**, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (Matthew 24:40-44)

But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' **Watch therefore**, for you know neither the day nor the hour. (Matthew 25:9-13)

And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying,

"My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter,

"So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

The Spirit and the Flesh

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. **Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load. (Galatians 5:16-6:5)

Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed,

"My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.

Isaiah's Description of the Crucifixion

1. Behold, my servant shall act wisely; / he shall be high and lifted up, / and shall be exalted.
2. As many were astonished at you— / his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, / and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—
3. so shall he sprinkle many nations. / Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
4. for that which has not been told them they see, / and that which they have not heard they understand.

5. Who has believed what he has heard from us?
6. And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
7. For he grew up before him like a young plant, / and like a root out of dry ground;
8. he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, / and no beauty that we should desire him.
9. He was despised and rejected by men, / a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
10. and as one from whom men hide their faces / he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
11. Surely he has borne our griefs / and carried our sorrows;
12. yet we esteemed him stricken, / smitten by God, and afflicted.
13. But he was pierced for our transgressions; / he was crushed for our iniquities;
14. upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
15. and with his wounds we are healed.
16. All we like sheep have gone astray; / we have turned—every one—to his own way;
17. and the LORD has laid on him / the iniquity of us all.
18. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, / yet he opened not his mouth;
19. like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, / and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, / so he opened not his mouth.
20. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; / and as for his generation, who considered
21. that he was cut off out of the land of the living, / stricken for the transgression of my people?
22. And they made his grave with the wicked / and with a rich man in his death,
23. although he had done no violence, / and there was no deceit in his mouth.
24. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; / he has put him to grief;
25. when his soul makes an offering for guilt, / he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
26. the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
27. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
28. by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, / make many to be accounted righteous, / and he shall bear their iniquities.
29. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, / and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
30. because he poured out his soul to death / and was numbered with the transgressors;
31. yet he bore the sin of many, / and makes intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)

JESUS:

Then he came to the disciples and said to them,

“Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”
 But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, / but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.””
 (Matthew 4:3-4)

3. OUR BETRAYAL WITH A “KISS”

vs

JESUS’S HUMILITY OF UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

(26:47-50)

JUDAS:

While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying,

“The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.”

And he came up to Jesus at once and said,

“Greetings, Rabbi!”

And he kissed him.

JESUS:

Jesus said to him,

“Friend, do what you came to do.”

Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.

4. OUR LUST FOR HUMAN POWER

vs

JESUS’ SUBMISSION TO GOD’S POWER

(26:51-56a)

PETER:

And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.

Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?" (John 18:10-11)

JESUS:

Then Jesus said to him,

"Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? **But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?**"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' / and 'On their hands they will bear you up, / lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Matthew 4:5-7)

At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

"Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. **But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.**"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God / and him only shall you serve.'" (Matthew 4:8-10)

PROPHECY FULFILLED—APOSTLES DESERT JESUS; JESUS RETURNS TO GALILEE (26:56b)

Then all the disciples left him and fled.

Jesus Returns to Galilee Resurrected

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:16-20)