

Introduction

My father was a brilliant man, who made his mark in the oil and gas industry for his expertise in drilling operations. Companies from around the world sent their drilling supervisors to his school so that they could learn how to properly supervise a drilling operation. On the first day of class, he stated the purpose or objective of the course was to equip field men in drilling operations technology so that they could comfortably put a pencil to an operation prior to performing the job, and to be a better supervisor. In the course, he would explain the importance of carefully planning every phase of an operation. Once a plan was developed, he had regular checkpoints with pre-calculated numbers for supervisors to make sure that the operation was going according to the plan. He was well-known in the industry for all of his check lists.

Our heavenly Father is also a planner. In Acts 2:23, we find that He had a predetermined plan to send Jesus to earth to die for our sins so that those who believed in Him would have eternal life. This plan was very detailed, and it had numerous checkpoints that could be monitored and followed. In the past, I have taught about the plan for His birth, which included being a descendant of David, from the tribe of Judah, and born by a virgin in Bethlehem in the fullness of time. God also developed plans for Jesus' life, ministry, and departure. Today, we want to look at the plans concerning Jesus' departure.

(Ac 2:23) “this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.”

In Jesus' High Priestly Prayer, He told the Father that He had glorified Him by accomplishing all the work which the Father had given Him to do. It is time for Him to go back to the Father, and His focus and attention is now on the departure plan.

(Jn 17:4) “I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.”

That departure plan was discussed at His transfiguration. Moses and Elijah met with Jesus, and they discussed His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Everything was carefully planned out in detail, and had been prophesied and included in scripture.

(Lk 9:29–31) “And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing *became* white *and* gleaming. {30} And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, {31} who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”

In John 10, Jesus said that no one takes His life from Him, and that He was laying it down on His own initiative. Jesus was the one that was in charge and directing things; it was His initiative. He had authority to lay it down, and He had authority to take it up again. While the religious rulers thought that they were in control, the truth was that Jesus was the one in complete control. He laid down His life on His own initiative, and He followed the pre-determined departure plan that He and the Father had made from the days of eternity.

(Jn 10:18) “No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”

In our text today, John recorded that Jesus knew all the things that were coming upon Him, and went forth... Jesus knew the plan. He knew every detail of the plan. He was monitoring and following the plan, making sure that every detail of the plan was carefully carried out.

(Jn 18:4) “So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, ‘Whom do you seek?’”

What were those things that were coming? In Mark 10, Jesus and the disciples were on the road going up to Jerusalem, and He took the twelve apostles aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him. He said, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles. They will mock Him and spit on Him, and scourge Him and kill *Him*, and three days later He will rise again.” These are the various check points of the plan, and we will see all of these fulfilled as we follow the departure plan. In Part 1, we will look at the Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus. Second, we will look at how He was delivered to the chief priests. Third, we will look at His condemnation, mocking, and suffering done by the chief priests and the scribes.

(Mk 10:32–34) “They were on the road going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking on ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were fearful. And again He took the twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him, {33} *saying*, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles. {34} They will mock Him and spit on Him, and scourge Him and kill *Him*, and three days later He will rise again.”

Following the Departure Plan – Part 1

1. Betrayal and Arrest (Jn 18:1-12)
2. Delivery to the chief priests (Jn 18:13-27)
3. Condemnation by the chief priests (Jn 18:19-24)

1. Betrayal and Arrest (Jn 18:1-12)

The first item on the Departure Plan was the betrayal and arrest of Jesus. Jesus knew the hearts of men, and He knew what was in the heart of Judas Iscariot. In John 13:2, at the last supper, John recorded that during supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray. A few verses later, Jesus said that those who have bathed only need to wash their feet and are completely clean, but not all of them. John wrote, “For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, ‘Not all of you are clean.’”

(Jn 13:2) “During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, *the son of Simon*, to betray Him,”

(Jn 13:10–11) “Jesus said to him, “He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all *of you*.” {11} For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, “Not all of you are clean.”

Even before that Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him. In verse eighteen, Jesus said, “I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.’ Jesus was quoting Psalm 41:9, where David prophesied that a

close friend, one who ate His bread would lift his heel against the Messiah. Jesus was making sure that all the scriptures, all the details of the departure plan, were fulfilled. Jesus told the disciples this before it happened so that afterwards they would believe that He is the Messiah.

(Jn 13:18–19) “I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but it is that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.’ {19} From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He.”

(Ps 41:9) “Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.”

Let’s get started in our text today. When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples.” The words He had spoken were the words to the High Priestly Prayer, so when He got done praying, He and the eleven remaining disciples crossed over the ravine of the Kidron and went to the Garden of Gethsemane. Earlier that evening, during the last supper, Jesus had excused Judas to go do what he was going to do, and to do it quickly, so the remaining eleven apostles were with Jesus. Judas knew the place where Jesus was going to go because He frequently went there with His disciples.

(Jn 18:1–2) “When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples. {2} Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples.”

(Jn 13:27) “After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”

Judas came and brought with him the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priest and the Pharisees. This is a sizable group of people that came to arrest Jesus. In the Roman army, they had a legion, which was made up of ten cohorts, which was about 6,000 soldiers. The legion was commanded by a Legate. Each cohort had six centuriae, who were commanded by centurions. A centuria was comprised of ten contubernia, who were known as tent soldiers. There were eight soldiers in each contubernia, so a centurion was over eighty soldiers. There were other support personnel so usually there were about a hundred men under the centurion. Since there were six centuriae in each cohort, there were about six hundred men in a cohort. There were also one hundred and twenty horsemen and scouts that accompanied the cohort. So, there are probably six hundred Roman soldiers coming with Judas to arrest Jesus. In addition to the soldiers, there were officers from the chief priests and Pharisees that also came, and they came with lanterns, torches, and weapons. This is a sizable crowd of between six hundred and a thousand men.

(Jn 18:3) “Judas then, having received the *Roman* cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.”

Matthew recorded that Judas had told the soldiers that he would give them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him.” When Judas came to Jesus, he said, “Hail, Rabbi!” and then he kissed Jesus, which was the normal way to greet one another. This was not a greeting though; it was a kiss of betrayal. Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you have come for.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

(Mt 26:48–50) “Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him.” {49} Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, “Hail, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. {50} And Jesus said to him, “Friend, *do* what you have come for.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.”

When Jesus saw the Roman cohort, the chief priests, and Judas, He knew exactly what was about to happen. He went forth to them and said, “Whom do you seek?” They answered, “Jesus the Nazarene.” And Jesus said to them, “I am He.” Judas who was betraying Him, was standing with them. I believe that it was at this point that Judas stepped forward and gave the kiss of betrayal.

(Jn 18:4–5) “So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” {5} They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He said to them, “I am *He*.” And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them.”

When Jesus said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground. The *He* is in italics, meaning it is implied, but not written. Jesus said, “I Am” which is the name for God. Jesus has just declared to them that He is Jesus the Nazarene. More significantly, He has declared to them that He is God, and they drew back and fell to the ground. They understood what He had just told them. They Jesus asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” Jesus then told them again, “I Am *He*.” Notice what Jesus tells them after that. He said, “So if you seek Me, let these go their way.” This was to fulfill the word which He spoke, “Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one.”

(Jn 18:6–9) “So when He said to them, “I am *He*,” they drew back and fell to the ground. {7} Therefore He again asked them, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus the Nazarene.” {8} Jesus answered, “I told you that I am *He*; so if you seek Me, let these go their way,” {9} to fulfill the word which He spoke, “Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one.”

That was He said in John 17, in His High Priestly prayer to the Father, and He had also declared that in John 6, saying, “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.” We see that Jesus is fully in charge of what is going on. He knows what is going on, what needs to happen. He is looking out for the interests of His disciples, and He is also making sure that every part of the plan is followed.

(Jn 17:12) “While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”

(Jn 6:39) “This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.”

Then, Simon Peter, took his sword and drew it, and struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. I can’t imagine Peter doing this with five or six hundred Roman soldiers there making the arrest. He could have gotten himself and all of them killed by his reaction to what is going on. Jesus told Peter to put his sword into the sheath. Then he said to Peter, “Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given Me?”

(Jn 18:10–11) “Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave’s name was Malchus. {11} So Jesus said to Peter, “Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?”

John does not record it, but in Luke's account, we find that Jesus touched Malchus' ear and healed him. It does not say that He picked up the bloody ear off the ground. He just reached out and touched Malchus' ear and healed him. This was a spectacular miracle in the midst of all that is going on. I am surprised that they can arrest Him after He has just done.

(Lk 22:51) "But Jesus answered and said, "Stop! No more of this." And He touched his ear and healed him."

In Matthew's account we also find out another detail that is significant. While Jesus is being arrested by these six hundred Roman soldiers and the officers of the chief priest, Jesus said, "Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way." A legion was ten cohorts or about six thousand soldiers. Jesus said that He could have at His disposal more than twelve legions of angels, which would be over seventy-two thousand angels. Jesus had all power and authority, but He was making sure that the scriptures were fulfilled. Jesus was following the Departure Plan, making sure that every detail of it was followed.

(Mt 26:53) "Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? {54} How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?"

When Jesus told Peter to put away his sword, He had also said, "the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?" He had spoken of the cup before. When James and John's mother had asked if they could sit at His right hand in His kingdom, He had asked them if they could drink the cup that He was about to drink. When He was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane earlier that evening, He had prayed, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." The cup referred to His death.

(Mt 20:22) "But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to Him, "We are able."

(Mt 26:39) "And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

The cup was more than just death. In Jeremiah 25:15, we find that the cup was a cup of God's wrath. In Isaiah 51:17, we find that the cup refers to the cup of God's anger. Jesus was going to take the anger and wrath of God for the sins of the world, our sins. Jesus was taking away our sins so that we could have eternal life with the Father.

(Je 25:15) "For thus the Lord, the God of Israel, says to me, "Take this cup of the wine of wrath from My hand and cause all the nations to whom I send you to drink it."

(Is 51:17) "Rouse yourself! Rouse yourself! Arise, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the Lord's hand the cup of His anger; the chalice of reeling you have drained to the dregs."

So, the Roman cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him. Jesus had been betrayed by Judas; none of the other eleven were arrested, and everything on that first section of the Departure Plan was completed.

(Jn 18:12) “So the *Roman* cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him.”

2. **Delivery to the chief priests** (Jn 18:13-27)

The next thing on the Departure Plan was that the Son of Man would be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, who would condemn Him to death.

(Mk 10:33) “*saying*, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and will hand Him over to the Gentiles.”

The Roman cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews led Jesus to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. Annas was the High Priest from AD 6-15. He had been appointed by the Roman governor, Quirinius. In the Old Testament, the High Priest kept his position for life, but when the Romans took over, the High Priests were appointed and removed at will. Caiaphas was the senior figure, and many people still looked up to him. Annas was son-in-law of Caiaphas, and he was appointed as the High Priest by the Roman prefect, Valerius Gratus in AD18 and served through AD36. He was the officially recognized High Priest, and ultimately controlled the priestly establishment.

(Jn 18:12–14) “So the *Roman* cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, {13} and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. {14} Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people.”

In John 11, after Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead, the Sanhedrin Council met and wanted to put Jesus to death. Caiaphas, who was High Priest, told the council that it was expedient for one man to die for the people, and the whole nation not perish. He had, in essence, prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation.

(Jn 11:50–51) “nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish.” {51} Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation,”

Interwoven into this scene is Peter’s first denial of Jesus. Nine of the apostles had scattered, but Peter and John had followed Jesus. John knew Caiaphas and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest.

(Jn 18:15) “Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest,”

Before going into Peter’s denial, let’s take a look at the Departure Plan. Ninety percent of the gospel of John is not contained in the other gospel accounts, the synoptic gospels. However, this is one of those things that is written about in all four gospels. At the Last Supper a few hours earlier, Jesus had told the disciples that they could not follow Him now, but later they would. They all responded that they would lay their lives down for Him. In response, Jesus told Peter that before the rooster would crow, he would deny Him three times. That denial is going to take place at the high priest’s house, which is why it is woven into this account. Jesus knew every

detail of what was going to take place during His betrayal, arrest, condemnation, sentencing, and crucifixion; He knew the Departure Plan, and had communicated it to His disciples so that afterwards they would believe that He is the Messiah.

(Jn 13:36–38) “Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?” Jesus answered, “Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later.” {37} Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You.” {38} Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.”

Since John knew Annas, who is referred to as the high priest, he had been allowed to go inside the courtyard with Jesus. Peter was standing at the door outside, so John went and spoke to the doorkeeper, and they brought Peter in. The slave-girl who kept the door said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” And Peter denied being Jesus’ disciple, which was his first denial. The slaves and the officers were standing there, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold, and they were warming themselves, and Peter was also with them warming himself.

(Jn 18:16-18) “but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in. {17} Then the slave-girl who kept the door said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” {18} Now the slaves and the officers were standing there, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter was also with them, standing and warming himself.”

To continue with Peter, we have to go down to verse 25, where they said to Peter, “You are not also one of His disciples, are you?” Peter again denied it, and said, “I am not.” That was the second denial. Then, one of the slaves of the high priest, being a relative of the Malchus, whose ear Peter cut off, said, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?” Peter then denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.” That was the third denial, just as Jesus had told Peter and the disciples.

(Jn 18:25–27) “Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You are not also *one* of His disciples, are you?” He denied *it*, and said, “I am not.” {26} One of the slaves of the high priest, being a relative of the one whose ear Peter cut off, said, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?” {27} Peter then denied *it* again, and immediately a rooster crowed.”

John does not elaborate on Peter’s response, but Luke recorded that when Peter denied Him the third time, Jesus turned and looked at Peter. At that glance, Peter remembered the word of the Lord that he would deny Jesus three times. And Peter “went out and wept bitterly.” His pride was humbled. Peter’s bravado and courage was devastated, and he went out and wept bitterly. We will pick this up again in John 21, when Jesus restores Peter.

(Lk 22:61–62) “The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, “Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.” {62} And he went out and wept bitterly.”

3. **Condemnation by the chief priests** (Jn 18:19-24)

Meanwhile, Jesus has been in with the high priest and other officers. Annas questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. Jesus responded, telling him that He had spoken openly to the world and in the synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. He told them that He had not spoken anything in secret. Then Jesus asked Annas why was he questioning Him. He told him to question those who have heard Him, and question them about what He had spoken.

(Jn 18:19–21) “The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. {20} Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. {21} Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said.”

This did not go over well with them, and one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, “Is that the way You answer the high priest?” Jesus simply responded, saying, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?” So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

(Jn 18:22-24) “When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, “Is that the way You answer the high priest?” {23} Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?” {24} So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.”

John does not give any details of Jesus standing before Caiaphas. He just records that after Jesus had been bound by Annas and sent to Caiaphas, they led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium. It was early and they did not go into the Praetorium so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. It is the epitome of hypocrisy. They are acting like they are holy, and are condemning an innocent man to death, trying to obtain false testimony, and beating and spitting on Jesus. Let’s go to Matthew 26 for a few minutes to pick up what happened while standing before Caiaphas.

(Jn 18:28) “Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover.”

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so they might put Him to death. This is a kangaroo court. They were not trying to find truth, but were looking for false evidence to arrive at the verdict they wanted. However, they could not find any consistency in the many false witnesses that came forward. Finally, two men came forward and said that Jesus had said, “I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.”

(Mt 26:59–61) “Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put Him to death. {60} They did not find *any*, even though many false witnesses came forward. But later on two came forward, {61} and said, “This man stated, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.’”

However, that is not what Jesus had said. In John 2:19, Jesus had said, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” He never said that He would destroy the temple. He was telling them that they would destroy the temple of His body, and He would raise it up in three days, something quite different than this false testimony by these two men.

(Jn 2:19–22) “Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” {20} The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” {21} But He was speaking of the temple of His body. {22} So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.”

Caiaphas stood up and said to Jesus, “Do You not answer?” Jesus just kept silent. This was in line with the Departure Plan written in Isaiah 53:7. So the high priest said to Jesus, “I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God.” This time, Jesus answered and said, “You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy; what do you think?” The other priests and officers said, “He deserves death!”

(Mt 26:62-66) “The high priest stood up and said to Him, “Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?” {63} But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, “I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God.” {64} Jesus said to him, “You have said it *yourself*; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” {65} Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy; {66} what do you think?” They answered, “He deserves death!”

(Is 53:7) “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth.”

In the Departure Plan, Jesus said that the Son of Man would be condemned to death by the chief priests and scribes. This is another check mark on the list of items that have to be fulfilled.

After condemning Jesus, they spat in His face, beat Him with their fists, and slapped Him. They mocked Him, telling Him to prophesy to them. Jesus had told His disciples.

(Mt 26:67-68) “Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him, {68} and said, “Prophecy to us, You Christ; who is the one who hit You?”

Again, Jesus had told His disciples that He would be mocked, and spit upon. He had told them that He would suffer at the hands of the chief priests. He also said that all the things that had been through the prophets had to be accomplished. Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22 contain many of these specific things, and we will look at them in Part 2.

(Lk 18:31–33) “Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished. {32} For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and

mistreated and spit upon, {33} and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again.”

Conclusion and Applications

God’s plan for redemption was established from the days of eternity. His plans were very precise and detailed. Today, we began looking at the fulfillment of the Departure Plans. Jesus discussed these with Moses and Elijah at His Transfiguration. Jesus communicated these plans on numerous occasions with His disciples. He told them that He was sharing these things ahead of time so that when they happen they will believe that He is the Messiah. Today, we looked the betrayal of Jesus by Judas, and the arrest by the Roman cohort. Jesus stayed in control, and made sure that His disciples were allowed to leave. This fulfilled His word that none of them would be lost. Second, they delivered Jesus to the chief priests and scribes. They took Jesus to Annas first, and then they took Him to Caiaphas, who was the high priest at the time. In the midst of that, we saw Peter deny Jesus three times, just as Jesus had prophesied to him a few hours earlier. Third, we looked at the condemnation to death that was made by the chief priests and scribes.

Our first application is to believe and receive Jesus. It comes from the verse where Jesus told these Departure Plans to His disciples before they happened so that they would believe. The same is true for us today. God communicated these plans before they ever happened so that we would believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

(Jn 13:19) “From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He.”

God so loved the world that He sent His Son to die for us so that we could be saved and have everlasting life. God does not want any to perish, but for all to come to repentance. Do you believe in Jesus? Do you believe that He is the Son of God? Do you believe that He came and died for our sins? Do you believe that He was raised from the dead? Believing is the first part to being saved. Paul wrote that we believe in our heart resulting in righteousness, and confess with our mouth, resulting in salvation. Have you confessed Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life? If you have never received Jesus into your life, I encourage you to pray and receive Him now. Tell God that you believe that He died for your sins and was raised from the dead. Ask Him to come into your life and forgive you of your sins. Tell Him that you want to surrender your life to Him and live for Him.

(Jn 13:19) “From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He.”

(2 Pe 3:9) “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

(Ro 10:9–10) “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; {10} for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

Our second application is to follow Jesus’ example. It is from 1 Peter 2:21-23. Peter wrote that Christ suffered for us, to leave us an example to follow in His steps. Jesus committed no sin and there was no deceit found in His mouth. While He was being reviled, He did not revile in return. While Jesus suffered, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to the Father. Jesus said

that if they hated Him, they will hate us. If they persecuted Him, they will persecute us. When you and I suffer, we are to follow the example of Christ, and keep entrusting ourselves to the Father. We are not to revile or threaten, but to keep entrusting ourselves to the Father. God promised to never leave or forsake us. He is with us, even in our suffering. Are you suffering? Ask God to help you through it. Keep your eyes fixed on Him, and follow His example. Make a decision ahead of time that you will not revile back, but you will keep entrusting yourself to God.

(1 Pe 2:21–23) “For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, {22} who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; {23} and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;”

Our third application is to be a bold witness for Christ. It comes from Peter’s denial of Jesus. We have been called to be His witnesses to the people around us. Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they had been clothed with power by the Holy Spirit, and then they would be His witnesses. We are living post-Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit has come. God wants us to be filled with His Spirit, and to be bold witnesses of Him. Peter tells us to always be ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in us, yet with gentleness and reverence. Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? Are you ready to make a defense of the hope that is in you? Are you ready and willing to share your testimony, your story, to those who ask? God wants you to be filled with His Spirit, and to confidently testify to others.

(Lk 24:49) “And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

(Ac 1:8) “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

(1 Pe 3:15) “but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;”

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for the plan that you put together from the days of eternity. Thank You for sending Jesus to redeem us and to save us from our sins. Jesus, thank You for suffering and dying for our sins so that we could have eternal life and fellowship with You. Thank You for sharing these things in advance so that we can believe in You. Father, help us to entrust ourselves to you when we suffer. Help us to follow the example that Jesus set for us. Father, fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Help us to be continually filled. Help us to boldly testify about you with those that ask. I pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever been betrayed? Was your attitude like Jesus’?
- Have you ever been maliciously charged for things that you did not do? Did you remain silent like Jesus? Did you revile back when reviled?

- How do we entrust ourselves to Jesus when suffering?
- Have you ever denied your faith? What are some things we can do to stay strong in our faith?
- When we are in the fire, who is the fourth man in the fire? Jesus promised to never leave or forsake us, which includes in times of suffering. How do we draw near to Him when suffering?

Following the Departure Plan – Part 1

Introduction (Ac 2:23, Jn 17:4, Lk 9:29-31, Jn 10:18, 18:4, Mk 10:32-34)

1. **Betrayal and Arrest** (Jn 18:1-12, 13:2, 13:10-11, 13:18–19, Ps 41:9, Jn 13:27, Mt 26:48–53, Jn 17:12, Lk 22:51, Mt 20:22, 26:39, Je 25:15, Is 51:17)

2. **Delivery to the chief priests** (Jn 18:13-27, Mk 10:33, Jn 11:50–51, 13:36–38, Lk 22:61–62)

3. **Condemnation by the chief priests** (Jn 18:19-24, Mt 26:59–68, Jn 2:19–22, Is 53:7, Lk 18:31–33)

Conclusion and Applications (Jn 13:19, 2 Pe 3:9, Ro 10:9-10, 1 Pe 2:21-23, Lk 24:49, Ac 1:8, 1 Pe 3:15)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.