

Guest Speaker Jerry Woychik

In the Fullness of Time

1. Jesus had a mission: the time had arrived and He was headed for the cross. The first step of His journey is demonstrated in verse 1. What was that step? How much courage did it take for Jesus to leave the comfort of this upper-story house in Jerusalem, knowing what lay ahead? What does it take to move you out of your comfort zone so you can accomplish what God has asked you to do?
2. Christ and His special followers (disciples) then traveled to a familiar area—one of bivouac when they visited Jerusalem (Luke 21:37). What did Matthew (26:36) call this place? The word means “oil press,” as it was located on the slopes of the Mount of Olives with its ever present olive groves. Why might Judas have picked this place to entrap Christ?
3. What does the apostle John nonchalantly tell us about Jesus Christ in verse 4? What is the significance of that statement? This same truth is possibly referred to again in verses 5-8, this time by Christ himself. What did He state and what could be implied by that? What might have been an indication that His statement carried divine authority with it?
4. In verses 8 and 9, we see that Jesus is concerned about keeping His word (see John 6:39, 17:12). What else can we discern from this verse?
5. Both Luke (22:50) and John record that it was Malchus’ right ear that Peter cut off. This is an “incidental evidence” of the historical reliability of these Gospel books; in fact, what other amazing touch of love for Jesus’ enemies does Luke (22:51) add? In the face of imminent death (or even ridicule, prejudice, or mild persecution), would we respond with comparable love and kindness?
6. After His arrest, John records the first of two Jewish trials. Before whom were these trials held? Next came two Roman trials, before whom? In each of these trials, what was decided? Two other trials were also held in this judicial farce, but not recorded in John (one before Herod mentioned in Luke 23:6-12 and the other before the Sanhedrin in Matthew 26:59), for a total of six trials!
7. Peter easily denied the One he had earlier sworn to protect. What in your life that causes you to reject, doubt, or deny Christ? A certain sin? Fear of what others will say? Love of the world?

Guest Speaker Troy Weigert

Read: John 19:1-22

Monday

1-3 — Make a list of the abuses that Jesus suffered at the hands of the Roman soldiers, and use a Bible dictionary or internet search engine to look up "Roman scourge" or "Flagellum." Read Isaiah 50:6, 52:14, and 53:5; take a few moments to meditate on the sufferings of Christ, and to thank God for His sacrifice.

Tuesday

4-7 — Some people today say that Jesus never claimed to be God. In verses 6 and 15, the Jews were crying out for Jesus death; why would this be? In verse 7, what reason did the Jews give that Jesus ought to die? Read Mark 14:61b-64. What did the high priest accuse Jesus of?

Wednesday

7b-12a — Why do you think Pilate was afraid of Jesus? Read Matthew 27:19. What did Pilate's wife say in this verse? Pilate very likely had a fear of Jesus that was based upon Greek mythology. Read Psalm 86:11. How can you develop a healthy fear of God?

Thursday

10,11 — If Pilate had the power to release Jesus, why didn't he (v. 4b and 6b)? Where do earthly rulers receive their authority from? In light of these verses; how should you respond to earthly authority? What did Jesus mean when He said, "the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin"?

Friday

12-16 — The Jews seem to be showing tremendous loyalty to Caesar; do you think they were sincere? Have you ever pretended friendship with someone because you thought it would be beneficial to you? Read Psalm 12:2. What does the Bible call such behavior?

Saturday

16-22 — Pilate had one of the greatest opportunities in all history: a personal interview with Jesus. Yet he squandered it. Still, God was not done using Pilate as a witness. Read verse 20 again; this should give believers great comfort: God can use you even when you blow it. Even so, let's not be another Pilate; let's seek to do God's will from a pure heart. Be used of God because of your obedience, not despite yourself.
