



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Trial!

Matthew 26:27-68

Message #74 of 80 – S1115

Sermon given on August 18, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Trial!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 26**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Trial!**
- One of the things that is baked into our human DNA is the idea of justice.
- When we see someone treated unjustly, or someone not getting the justice they deserve, it stirs us up.
- This week a 71-year-old grandmother was convicted of four misdemeanors for spending ten minutes inside the Capital building on January 6, 2021.
- And at the same time people are committing heinous crimes and being released on little or no bail.
- There is something terribly wrong with our 'justice' system.
- Today, and over the next few weeks, we will look at the most unjust thing ever done – the trial and crucifixion of Christ Jesus.
- It begins with a betrayal.
- **Matthew 26:47-48**
- Why would Jesus need to be pointed out to the mob?
- Because when they approached the twelve men in Gethsemane, they all looked similar.
- Jesus didn't glow in the dark nor was He dressed in majestic robes.
- He looked just like everyone else.
- **Matthew 26:49-50a**
- Jesus refers to Judas as 'friend'.
- Even as he is betraying Jesus, he is given a word of grace.
- What was happening was going to happen, and Judas was the tool God chose to get Jesus on the way to the cross.

- Jesus is telling Judas that it was not too late to repent and be forgiven for this most heinous act.
- That wouldn't stop what was happening, but it would save Judas' soul.
- Sadly, the closest he would get is regret for his actions and he would take his own life and close the door to grace forever.
- As long as there is life there is hope for repentance.
- Judas committed the most heinous sin possible and yet he could have repented and been forgiven and been met by Jesus in heaven.
- Keep praying for those who are far from God – there is still hope.
- Some, like Judas, will refuse to humble themselves and repent, but some will choose grace and be saved. Never stop praying for them.
- **Matthew 26:50b-53**
- John's gospel tells us that it was Peter who cut off Malchus' ear.
- Luke's gospel tells us that Jesus healed Malchus' ear before they hauled Him away.
- There has been a debate over the last two thousand years which this verse plays into.
- Should Christians be pacifists – never resorting to violence.
- Or is there a time and place where believers are called to take up the sword.
- In Luke's gospel, right before Jesus went to Gethsemane, He told them they should have a sword (**Luke 22:36-38**).

Then He said to them, “But now, he who has a money bag, let him take *it*, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. ³⁷ For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: ‘*And He was numbered with the transgressors.*’ For the things concerning Me have an end.” ³⁸ So they said, “Lord, look, here *are* two swords.” And He said to them, “It is enough.”

- Why would Jesus tell them to have a sword and then tell Peter not to use it?
- His main point was that the kingdom of God will not be won through violence.
- It will be won through love, forgiveness, grace and mercy.
- In my humble opinion, this is a matter of faith and conscience.
- If you believe God is calling you to be a pacifist, then be a pacifist.

- If you believe God would have you be prepared to defend yourself, or your family, or others from evil, then do that.
- I thank God for godly people who have taken up arms in law enforcement and the military to protect those who can't protect themselves.
- Seek the Lord, trust in Him completely, and do what you believe the Holy Spirit is telling you.
- Jesus could have asked, and God would have responded by sending twelve legions, or 72,000 angels.
- His point is that if I didn't ask it is because this is supposed to happen and by asking for God to send angels, He would have thwarted the clear will of God.
- Jesus was not captured by the mob, judged guilty by the high priest, and sentenced to die on the cross by Pilate.
- Jesus was always going to die on the cross.
- It was the only way He could save us.
- Jesus was not made to die on that horrible wooden cross, He went to it willingly for each of us (**John 10:17-18**).

Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.

- Jesus establishes the standard all believers should strive for – an unyielding desire to live in accordance with God's will, regardless where it might lead us. (**Ivor Powell**)

"To live for self is to live in vain; to live for Christ is to live again."

- Jesus then goes on to say this must happen this way.
- **Matthew 26:54-56a**
- These events were ordained in the ancient past and then given to the prophets in the form of prophecies.
- Once God has spoken something into the Scriptures they cannot be altered.
- If God said it will happen, it must happen.
- Then something Jesus told the disciples they would do happened.
- **Matthew 26:56b**
- Even proud Peter ran away, just like Jesus said he would.

- And then the trial begins.
- **Matthew 26:57-60a**
- They didn't have anything they could charge Jesus with so they set out to find witnesses who might say something they could accuse Jesus of.
- The ninth commandment says (**Exodus 20:16**).

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

- They wanted to kill Jesus because of His influence over the people.
- People thronged to Him because of miracles and teachings.
- The religious were jealous of Jesus and had determined that the only solution was to kill Him even though He had done nothing worthy of death (**Hebrews 4:15**).

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- They were determined to condemn Christ - truth and justice were not going to stand in the way.
- We see so many parallels to this in our culture.

- **Matthew 26:60b-61**

- They are recollecting something Jesus had said three years earlier at the beginning of His ministry.

- Mark's gospel says these two didn't totally agree.
- It was close enough for what the high priest needed even though Jewish law required that they agree.

- That is a misrepresentation of what Jesus said (John 2:19-22).

Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ Then the Jews said, "It has taken 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 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

- Jesus had said that if they destroy the temple of His body, which they would soon do, that He will raise it up in three which is a reference to His resurrection.
- It is fascinating that this is the charge that seek to accuse Jesus of.
- Unbelievers often know enough about God to misunderstand everything about Him.
- I once heard that Whoopi Goldberg rejected God because the Bible says He is a jealous God.

- She was comparing imperfect and often sinful human jealousy with God's perfectly holy divine jealousy.
- Sadly, most unbelievers have no desire for truth.
- They will do everything in their power to reject the things of God.
- That was me. Before I met Kelly I was unchurched – I didn't know if there was a God and didn't care if there was or not.
- But then, Kelly and I got married.
- Suddenly I am living with a Christian.
- There were many times when that became uncomfortable.
- For about fourteen years my heart was hard toward the things of God.
- But I can look back now and see that there was a point when God started to work on me.
- He did it by causing me to be curious about what Kelly believed.
- I wanted to understand why it was so important to her.
- I wanted to know why, no matter what happened in our life or how our life changed, her God-thing remained.
- And from the moment that I stopped resisting God and opened my heart to understand what Kelly believed was so important God started working.
- I am so thankful that God put a faithful, and beautiful, woman into my life to love me enough not to give up on me until God was able to break through the hardness of my wicked heart.
- **Matthew 26:62-63**
- According to the Mishna, this way of asking Jesus to respond requires a response.
- To be silent at that point was an unforgivable offense.
- As a perfect Jew, Jesus responded honestly and profoundly.
- **Matthew 26:64**
- Jesus' response is, 'Yes, I am the Messiah!'
- At this point, they have a choice.
- They can believe Him and fall down at His feet and worship Him, or they can reject Him and condemn Him falsely to death.
- At some point in our lives, we were faced with the same basic question, 'Is Jesus my Savior or is He not?'

- Well, that is all the high priest needs to hear.
- He doesn't believe that Jesus is the Messiah and He has just claimed to be divine.
- He makes his choice and rejects his Savior.
- **Matthew 26:65-68**
- Caiaphas' actions are exceedingly wicked.
- He is not motivated by a desire to please God or defend Israel but is driven by a desire to maintain his power and authority.
- If Jesus was the promised Messiah, He would ruin everything for Caiaphas' evil plans.
- If you are a believer in Christ Jesus then you have heard His confession, 'I am the Christ, the Son of the Living God.'
- The world is still putting Christ on trial.
- Every time a believer steps out into the world, either physically or digitally online, God's enemies will be watching for an opportunity to accuse Jesus.
- We are given the immeasurable privilege of being a witness for Christ.
- And we should follow Christ's example.
- First, Christ yielded Himself fully to the will of God and went where God sent Him.
- Wherever you are is where God has placed you.
- Seek His will right where you are.
- Second, Christ ignored every false accusation brought against Him.
- We live in a world where godless people say false and ridiculous things about God, His church, and His people. Ignore them.
- Third, given the opportunity Jesus spoke truth.
- Jesus confessed that He was the Messiah even though He knew that meant they would crucify Him.
- When you have an opportunity to speak truth, do it, without consideration of the consequences.
- We are living in times of darkness, but we are children of the Light.
- Let us walk boldly in the light until our Savior comes for us.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us all do that!
- **Pray! Last Song!**