

## I'll Be A Friend To Jesus; Matthew 26:55-56

### I. The King

- A. John 12:12–15 (ESV); <sup>12</sup> The next day the large crowd that had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” <sup>14</sup> And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, <sup>15</sup> “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”
- B. The Passion
1. A term used for the name of the events starting in the Garden of Gethsemane and ending with the crucifixion of Jesus — the suffering of Jesus
  2. I want us to start before that, with His entrance into Jerusalem before the Passover
  3. Look at the people — it would seem that they recognize Him as the long awaited Messiah
  4. In the verses before this, the chief priests were plotting to kill both Jesus and Lazarus
  5. Yet the crowds were calling him the “prophet from Nazareth”
  6. Matthew 21:10–11 (ESV); <sup>10</sup> And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup> And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”
  7. Matthew 27:22–23 (ESV); <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” <sup>23</sup> And he said, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”
  8. The same people who were singing “Hosannah” and now shouting “Crucify Him”
  9. They were swayed by mob thinking
  10. Matthew 27:20 (ESV); Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.
- C. We have our own decision to make, not based on anyone else’s understanding or idea of who Jesus is, but based on God’s message to us

### II. The Garden

- A. The hour is here — Jesus’ ministry has all pointed to this very moment when he would be arrested
- B. He arrives at the garden, knowing what is about to happen
- C. Mark 14:32–36 (ESV); <sup>32</sup> And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” <sup>33</sup> And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.” <sup>35</sup> And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”
1. Jesus’ focus is communion with the Father
  2. His prayer is for the Father’s will — knowing fully what that means for him
  3. 2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV); Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,
  4. Romans 8:16–17 (ESV); <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.
  5. Jesus, knowing they are coming for Him — to arrest Him, to try Him, to reject Him, and to crucify Him — is right where they expect him to be
  6. He presents Himself to his captors with no thought of escape — this is His purpose
- D. We must remember our purpose and to be right where we are supposed to be regardless of the pain, suffering, or persecution

- E. Esther 4:9–14 (ESV); <sup>9</sup> And Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. <sup>10</sup> Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, <sup>11</sup> “All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law —to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days.” <sup>12</sup> And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. <sup>13</sup> Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think to yourself that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. <sup>14</sup> For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”
- F. Go into your ‘garden’ with full confidence that the Father is watching over you!

### III. The Crucifixion

- A. Luke 23:32–34 (ESV); <sup>32</sup> Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.
  - 1. Psalm 22:1, 6-8, 14-18
  - 2. All the religious leaders (as well as others) would know the Psalms and would immediately get the reference to Psalm 22
  - 3. You can see there is a connection
  - 4. Those around could easily see that this Psalm — written almost 1000 years earlier — was being played out in their presence
  - 5. Another proof that Jesus is the Messiah
- B. Jesus, Himself, tells us that He could have walked away from the whole thing
- C. Matthew 26:53–54 (ESV); <sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?”

### IV. The Resurrection

- A. The Burial
  - 1. Tombs had large stone rolled across the entrance
  - 2. This particular tomb also had a guard stationed outside it and a Roman seal placed on it
  - 3. The religious leaders were afraid that Jesus’ apostles would come and take His body and then claim He was resurrected
  - 4. Matthew 27:66 (ESV); So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.
  - 5. Matthew 28:1-10
- B. Here, for me, is the ultimate proof that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God and the Savior of the World
- C. Jesus went through all of this so that God would forgive our sins and give us eternal life with Him — voluntarily
- D. John 10:17–18 (ESV); <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

### V. I’ll Be A Friend

- A. This is Friends Day and we have invited our friends
- B. Are we friends of Jesus?