

On The Way To Gethsemane.

Mark 14:27-31.

Sunday morning, February 2, 2009.

- I. All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night. Vs. 27
- A. The foreknowledge of our Lord.
The foreknowledge of their weakness does not keep Him from choosing them.
1. He gives to people like these the privilege of walking with Him the three years of His earthly ministry.
 2. The privilege to hear His teachings, both public teaching as well as much private instruction.
 3. The privilege of witnessing His signs as He healed the sick; stilled the storm, and raised the dead.
 4. The privilege of being endowed with divine power themselves for public ministry as the Lord sent them out two by two.
- B. The Love of Christ.
1. It is said of the Lord Jesus at the feast of Passover that "Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end (telos)." John 13:1.
The Greek word translated "the end" (telos) means "a definite goal or purpose." The verb form of the same word means "To set out for a definite goal or purpose." As such John 13:1 does not tell us that the Lord loved His disciples till the end of His earthly life; love transcends death.
 2. The love of Christ toward His disciples entails a definite goal or purpose.
 - This entails overlooking and providing forgiveness for their many infirmities.
 - It entails a joining them to Himself, confirming their hearts and minds to His own. A transforming them into a suitable helper and companion to Himself. Even as the first man, Adam, had received a suitable companion for himself in Eve, so here the second Adam receives the same.
 - It means a dealing with the beloved in accordance with that definite goal or purpose. All Christ's dealings with you follow this pattern.
 3. The love of Christ means that even now, notwithstanding all their weaknesses and shortcomings, He is not going to cast them away, and He will not cast you away for your many failures!
 4. Even at the late hour of the last supper, this love is offered to Judas as Christ dips the bread in the bowl and offers it to Judas, and with that His sincere goodwill and good intentions toward that man. And so He does toward you.
- C. The sufferings of Christ.
- A. Notwithstanding Christ's great love toward His own, their great weakness toward Him, and the fickleness of their love, constituted a real part of His sufferings at this time.
The sense of forsakenness was beginning to loom large in His consciousness at this time. Now He was about to be forsaken of His disciples, and being forsaken by the Father would follow on its heels.
- B. How often during the past three years had the Lord groaned and suffered under the burden of the disciples' blindness and unbelief! "O ye of little faith!" Here these burdens are all coming to a head.

Application: Are you learning to love like Christ?

When your friends; your children; your parents; your brothers and sisters (in the flesh or in the Lord); or your spouse don't live up to your expectations, do you cast them away? Does your love have a definite goal or purpose? Is that goal or purpose centered in you or in Christ?

II. After I have been raised I will go before you to Galilee. Vs. 28.

The Lord had made His way to Jerusalem slowly over several months. It had started in the area of Caesarea Philippi (now Syria near the border of central Lebanon). Here Peter had uttered His great confession of faith.

All the way down to Jerusalem the Lord had repeatedly foretold about His suffering, death and resurrection, yet it went all over their head.

Here again, at this late hour, He tells them again plainly that when He is raised He will go before them to Galilee, but it does not register with them.

A. Consider how much hope and comfort they missed out on because of this.

B. Consider what misfortune befell them because of this.

1. When their Master was betrayed they all forsook Him.
2. When he was crucified they all despaired.
3. When he was raised they would not believe it.

Application: Consider how much comfort you miss out on, and how much misfortune befalls you because of not laying up in your heart the things you have heard and read so many times. Is not the same blindness on us as well?

III. Before the rooster crows twice you will deny Me three times. Vs. 30.

A. We should not think that this boasting was Peter's problem only. Peter was always quick to react and to put his reaction in words, as he does here.

B. But a few hours at most had past since the Lord had broken the news, "One of you will betray me." that seemed unbelievable at the time.

Now He says that all of them will be offended and stumble because of Him?

C. It is more than they can handle and believe about themselves.

Peter puts it into words: "If I have to die with you, I will not deny you!"

All the disciples believed the same, for "they all said likewise."

D. That same hour they would fall asleep three times as the Lord wrestled in prayer.

Within the next three or four hours Peter would have denied three times that he knew the Lord.

Application. We know ourselves so very little. We do not know what destructive seeds lie buried in our hearts, only to spring up like Jonah's gourd when circumstances permit.

1. This should foster great humility in us.
2. This should drive us into the arms of our Lord for safe keeping, and for restoration when in our self confidence we have fallen into sin like Peter.