

SERIES: CHRIST'S SACRIFICE: OUR HOPE

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, March 11-12, 2023

SERMON: A Choice of His Own

SCRIPTURE: John 18:1-18 NIV

John 18:1-18 (NIV)

[1] When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

[2] Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.

[3] So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

[4] Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

[5] "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)

[6] When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

[7] Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said.

[8] Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go."

[9] This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."

[10] Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

[11] Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

[12] Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him

[13] and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.

[14] Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

[15] Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard,

[16] but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

[17] "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not."

[18] It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

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What does this teach us?

1. The difficulty of _____ and _____ the truth.
2. The ease of getting _____ in a _____.
3. The _____ and _____ of prayer.
 - *“Inner strength and spiritual fortitude are the result of quiet reflection on God’s Word and being steeped in prayer. There simply is no formula that replaces that truth.”*
 - Prepare in _____ for life’s troubles.
 - **Proverbs 3:5-6** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*
 - **Proverbs 3:8** *This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.*
4. The once-and-for-all _____ of Christ.
 - A _____ choice.
 - A choice _____.
 - **2 Peter 3:9** *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

Lagniappe

Some things you need to know

I hope you will read through the following closely so that you know what we're planning to do in the next few weeks and months.

First, we have now set our regular congregational meetings for the remainder of the year – these meetings are when we meet as a congregation to receive reports and conduct business. We had our first congregational meeting last month in February, and we will meet on:

Wednesday, *May 24*,

Wednesday, *September 13*, and

Wednesday, *November 15*.

These meetings will be at *6:45PM in Central Hall*. If we need additional meetings, we will call them with a two week notice according to our bylaws.

Second, our special Maundy Thursday Service will be held **Thursday, April 6 at 7:00PM** in the Worship Center. We will reflect on the sacrifice of Christ and use that time as a special observance of the Lord's Supper.

Third, Easter Sunday is April 9. We will have special resurrection services Saturday at 6:00 p.m., and Sunday at 9:30AM and 11:00AM. Last year we had a record attendance for any Sunday in the history of our church. We expect to have more than 4000 people in the three services this year. Fortunately, we have plenty of room for you and your guests. *Would you make a special effort to be with us?*

I will be preaching from Paul's affirmation of the resurrection as found in 1 Corinthians 15. ***I will seek to show from the Scripture that Christ has indeed been raised from the dead and that He is truly God's Son.***

We are hopeful and prayerful for a record attendance and many people who will hear the good news of the gospel.

Waylon