

"FRIEND, WHY ARE YOU HERE?"

Matt. 26:50

- Betrayer had made his decision.
- V. 47 - Group of soldiers come with him.
- Jesus had fought and won the struggle in Gethsemane.
- Judas is with the crowd in the garden and the plan is to arrest Jesus. The
- signal has been agreed upon.

V. 48 - The man I kiss is the man - seize him.

Judas carried out his part of the agreement.

Jesus responds with the (question): Friend, why are you here?

This question is one that really matters - lives with sin loneliness - despair - why are you here?

In the city of Chesapeake there are four groups - and you belong to one of these companies.

I. BETRAYERS IN THE GARDEN

Judas was in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was one of the twelve followers. Not a self appointed Disciple - he had been chosen, as Matthew and the others.

Not only that, he held the trusted position of Treasurer - John 12:6.

Sadat of Egypt has chosen men in his Army. A parade in progress. Some

Betrayers, worked together, unloaded an Army truck and left the reviewing stands looking like a battlefield. Some inside the Army brought about their leaders death.

The person who harms the Christian cause more than any other is not the outside critic but the inside traitor.

Iran the leader has issued orders for friends and families to betray their own relatives or close friend.

German Preacher, Helmut Thielicke, tells of a certain man who was quite hostile to Hitler's movement. Someone betrayed him to the Gestapo, he spent many months in Concentration Camps. After the war ended, he returned to his own home, not in the best of health, in control of his senses. Soon he found that it was his own son who had betrayed him. The man's faculties collapsed and he hanged himself. Hitler could not control the thinking of this man, yet one so close turned traitor and the result was suicide.

We can betray our Lord in at least two ways. Two methods.

First, betrayal by actions.

Jesus outlined his cross bearing mission, we read in John 6:66 "Many of his followers turned back and would not go with him any more."

Tragic fact that the cross turns off many would be followers. The cross is a great dividing point.

In the church we invite people to accept what Christ demands!

Some people invite people to cushioned pews, coffe and doughnuts, but
He demand a cross, does that make an appeal to you.

2- Second, betrayal by inaction,

Many are guilty of this. Often we say our lives are our testimonies and
this is true.

Your witness will count for little if you do not have a devoted life to
back it up.

God uses my life often to get his message through. Remember he places
a high premium on speaking when he said "By your words you will be justified,
and by your words you will be condemned." Matt. 12:37.

A wayward boy, drunk said "what happened to all the money my father gave
to the church?"

The minister replied, I would like to know what happened to all the money
your father didn't give to the church, but left you!

If ever the world needed churches as redemptive agents, who will not
compromise his cause, it is now.

X Friend, why are you here?

II. SLEEPERS IN THE GARDEN

They are found in every church fellowship.

Jesus asked those closest to him to share his prayer time in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Now certainly they needed him! Had they been faithful in the Garden, their faith would have been brighter.

I think Jesus urged them to watch in those difficult hours, he needed them!

There is a story about a girl of six. Quite afraid in a storm one night. Running to her mother said "Mama, the lightning - the thunder - I'm scared." Her mother said, "now dear, don't be afraid. The Lord is with you. That may be, but I want somebody in my room with skin on him." We have all known times like that.

Bible - Luke 22:46 translates "He found them asleep, worn out by grief."

Never the less, our Lord was counting upon them. They went to sleep and were in no position to help.

A farmer took his son with him one morning to be his companion while he plowed. At noon they divided a lunch as they rested under the shade tree. The father admonished the son to stay away from the nearby cliff, this time he failed.

to remind him. Leaning back against the tree, he almost instantly fell asleep.
He awoke with a start and noted immediately the boy was nowhere to be seen.
Running to the edge of the cliff, he saw the broken body of his son below.

Hours later he walked by the little white casket, close friends heard
him repeat over and over - "I just went to sleep - I just went to sleep."

How the Master's heart is broken as he longs for strength from Disciples
- they are asleep.

Could this be part of the tragedy of the church - drowsy, indifferent,
Disciples. Who no longer hear "Go ye into all the world."

A lady of a downtown church wrote Nashville, Tenn. "My husband and I
were interested in the church, your prayer meeting. We worshipped with your
people at 11 o'clock and were inspired. Many people helped us feel welcome.
We began to search for the key to the secret that makes people drive three,
five, or 20 miles to be a part of your fellowship. I think we've found it.
It was the people live in a spirit of openness and friendliness that permits
the entrance of the Holy Spirit to work through them and inspire them as they
serve our Lord."

That is the elementary ingredient of the Christian life. Often this is
missing.

✗ Friend, why are you here?

III. ARRESTERS WERE IN THE GARDEN

In the Garden there was an armed crowd that had been sent by the Chief Priest and Elders.

This was not the first time a group had attempted to apprehend Jesus.

John 7:46 - Another attempt was ordered and they returned empty-handed, their only excuse "No man ever spoke like this man."

We always have those who are willing to follow the orders of others. Now I'm not speaking of those here in the business or vocational world. Employer and employee have to maintain this relationship.

One of the basic problems of the nation and world is disrespect for authority - especially the right kind of authority.

A Disciple of Jesus must think about his surrender and service.

Good example of this is I make a noise and the dog in the lot started barking at me. Next door another dog followed suit. Across the street another joined it. Away over in a different block, another canine voiced his sentiments. And yet the first dog was the only one that knew what he was barking about. He knew someone had made some racket next to his quarters and the others were just saying amen.

There are folks in church like that.

Luke 9:57-62 records three men who wanted to follow Jesus, conscious of a

divine call. When the time for commitment came they were not enlisted.
Consecration to Jesus is a whole life. Friend, why are you here?

IV. REDEEMERS WERE IN THE GARDEN

They are always present, thank the Lord!

Jesus was there - the essential Redeemer.

Weary Disciples were there.

Every church has Christ's redeeming people. Some have been veterans
for many years.

Souls are waiting for the right hand, the right voice, the right way to
be led into discipleship.

We need strong examples of renewal in the church.

I am proclaiming the Lord's message. Not some professional approach -
our mission is ministry of our Lord.

We are sons and daughters of the empty tomb.

John 13:34-35 - A new Commandment I give to you, that you love one another.

even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my Disciples, if you have love for one another."

We are chosen by Christ to lead men through love.

A story that moved me -- "A small boy went into a pet shop. "Mister" he addressed the manager. "I want to buy that puppy."

The manager followed the pointed finger to a little crippled dog all by himself.

"Son", he replied, "that pup is worthless. We're going to have him put to sleep in the next few days."

But the would-be owner answered "I have saved my money just to buy that one puppy. I have been looking in the window at him every day. He's the only one I want."

Once again the manager of the store explained the problem - the dog was crippled - the dog was worthless - the dog would be put to sleep."

The smallboy then reached down with two little hands and pulled up his trousers.

The man observed two little legs enclosed in braces.

→ Mister, he said, you don't know what love can do!"

In the Garden present were -

~~Betrayers~~

~~Sleepers~~

~~Arresters~~

~~Redeemers~~ -- Friends, why are you here?