

Luke 22: 47-53; Psalm 41; Betrayed in the Garden I. The Betrayer's Kiss II. The Disciple's Defense III. The Son of Man's Submission

Congregation of our Lord Jesus Christ, how do we respond to danger? What is the normal response when a perceived threat is present? As you may know, when we face danger the adrenal gland releases epinephrin which gives us a boost of energy so that we can fight or flee. Today we find the disciples in our passage facing a situation that was surely to qualify as a perceived threat. Can you imagine an armed band surrounding your home in the middle of the night? Well, these disciples were understandably concerned as they were in this very difficult situation. But Jesus' response to them- how He addresses their concern- will be in a surprising manner as we will see. So today we return to Luke 22 and we find Jesus is still in the garden at night- while the powers of darkness gather to surround Him. We consider this theme: The Son of Man submits to His betrayal for the salvation of His people.

### **I. The Betrayer's Kiss**

In our first point, we consider the kiss of the betrayer. Our text starts in v. 47 where Jesus is still speaking and He is interrupted by this gathering mob. So Luke would have us remember what Jesus was saying- as we considered last week. Jesus was in the garden praying for strength- He was teaching His disciples to pray that they enter not into temptation- tempted to sin or fall away when trials come! And Jesus was sweating great drops of blood as He was in great anguish! And behold, a crowd comes- a trial is already at hand! And who should be leading them- but Judas the one who would betray them. Remember, that this was a well-known place of prayer for Jesus. It was a place that Jesus visited frequently- so Judas would have known how to find Jesus in this dark place in the dead of the night. Remember that Judas was leading this mob- Judas who had been in the inner circle of Jesus for 3 years. Judas has seen the miracles and had been fed by the miraculous bread. Judas had been on the boat when Jesus calmed the storm- and his own feet had been washed by the Savior! Judas was the keeper of the money bag- so he would have been in charge of paying for the various necessities that the disciples needed. But the heart of Judas remains black-

Satan had entered his heart! Judas had already made a pact and plan with the Jewish leaders in 22:5. Judas was a close friend and companion of Jesus- an event already foretold as we read in Psalm 41:9- even my close friend and companion whom I trusted- one with whom I ate bread has lifted up his heel against me! Although he had seen and heard all that Jesus did and said- Judas did not believe. He was a deceiver- and now he becomes a betrayer. What you do- do it quickly as Jesus said to him in John 13. Judas departs from the upper room and he carries out his plan- for 30 pieces of silver he will hand the Son of Man over into the hands of wicked men. So Judas gathered his mob and he leads them up the mountain to take the Son of God by force. And because it was dark in this garden, Judas is going to identify Jesus. Judas needs to make sure that the mob gets their man- so Judas goes up to Jesus in v. 47 and he embraces him and kisses his cheek. So Jesus is held and kissed- with a kiss of friendship! Addressed as rabbi- my teacher and my friend Judas would say. A kiss in this manner is a sign of friendship, companionship and alliance. We would say that Judas stabs Jesus in the back! A betrayal- that Judas would give his teacher over- handing him up in the dark of night so that no crowds would see. In a secret place so that his followers would be few. Having seen and heard the truth- Judas rejects and denies the truth- supressing it in unrighteousness- and he choses a few pieces of silver over the life of a friend. Now is says in v. 47 that Judas was leading a crowd- a mob. The word used in John 18 is that Judas was leading a band of soldiers. A cohort. So this mob included representatives of the Jewish leaders- servants and guards from the High Priest. And following close behind is a cohort of Roman soldiers- which could have been up to 600 soldiers. So this is not some small group! And they come out against Jesus- waging war against the Son of Man with their swords and clubs. As if Jesus was some murderer or thief! As if Jesus was leading some insurrection- that He was some terrorist or anarchist! So foolish- can swords and clubs and ropes hold Him who is the anointed one of God? Even Jesus remarks in v. 52- I have been unarmed in the temple day after day! What is my sin- for what am I being arrested for? For teaching the truth!? What capital offense have I committed- Healing the sick and raising the dead!? But this mob needed their day- the army of darkness needed to be mobilized. As Jesus

concludes in v. 53- this is your hour! Satan- this is your time to carry out your plan! Since you could not tempt me to sin- you now have the opportunity to arrest me and put me on trial! It is as if Jesus is saying- let it be so for now- this must be! The hour of darkness is at hand- the kingdom of evil has the upper hand for now! The light is fading- and the Prince of Life is going to be put to death! Darkness, deceit and death has its time- it is now the night! For suffering lasts but for a night- but what this crowd did not know- what Judas and Satan could never have guessed is this- after a night of darkness and sorrow the morning comes!

## II. The Disciple's Defense

So seeing this crowd- this mob surround Jesus- ready to haul Him away- the disciples are understandably concerned! The common defense mechanism kicks in- now is the time to fight! They will flee later- but first they think it is time to fight! So when those around him saw the crowd they said- Lord should we strike with the sword- v. 49? Can we defend you, master? Look, we have these two swords with us as they said back in v. 38. Two of us are armed- can we strike out at the enemy? Can we land the first blow? The disciples are talking like men- and thinking after the manner of this world. We see this common, normal and earthly response on the news all the time! The use of swords- the use of might and violence to get our point across! We will shout down our opponent- we will take our rage out on our enemies! But that is not what Jesus wants for His people! As I Tim. 2 puts it, we should seek to live a peaceful and quiet life! To live in a godly and dignified manner! Not following the example of this world- by being loud, abusive and violent! So the disciples are thinking- we need to defend Jesus- to protect him and protect ourselves! They do not see that these things must take place! They have forgotten that Jesus has often spoken of this time- that the Son of Man must be handed over to wicked man and put to death! Even Peter strikes out in v. 50- cutting off the ear of the High Priest's servant. But as Jesus will say in Mt. 26, all who take up the sword will die by the sword. If you live a violent life you will die in a violent manner! The Kingdom does not come with swords loud clashing! The church does not grow by way of threat or coercion! We do not pressure people- or force them to join us or die as many other religions do! No, that is not the way of our master

and that must not be the way of His people! So instead of raising the sword- returning blow for blow- we learn from the words of Moses in Ex. 14- fear not and stand firm. See the salvation of the Lord which He will work for you! The Lord will fight for you- and you have only to be silent! So stand still- and see the salvation brought by the Lord! Instead of fighting with your swords- look to the Son of Man for He will save and deliver! Vengeance belongs to Him in His time! Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but principalities and powers! That is why the militant church holds the sword of the Spirit and not the sword of steel!

### **III. The Son of Man's Submission**

So after rebuking His disciples, Jesus continue to display what true courage and obedience looks like! As we found in our introduction, there are usually 2 responses to danger. Either we will take flight or we will fight. But there is a third response to danger that we find in this last point. When Jesus was faced with this overwhelming darkness and the attack against Him by the Evil One- Jesus does not fight nor does He take flight- He does not take up the sword nor does He run away! Rather, instead of taking flight or fighting- He stands fast! He remains firm as He meets his nemesis head on. The way in which Christ will fight against the kingdom of darkness is by submitting to His Father's will! Now we know that Jesus could have called an angelic army to His defense! He could have summoned a legion of heavenly hosts as Mt. 26 states to defeat this mob and deliver Him from evil. But Jesus does not – it was for this reason that He came! He came to face this army of darkness- to put his life in their hands- to do to Him as they willed! It was for this reason that He came as John 12 puts it! His Kingdom will not grow on earth by His use of force- but by His submission and humility! His kingdom is not like the kingdom of this world- nor will His church grow by way of His resistance to the enemies plan for Him. He willingly, humbly commits himself to the hands of his foe- not refusing but rather humbling Himself to death, even death on the cross. He will not resist- so swords and clubs are not needed to take Him into custody. The Son of Man will bow to this burden- the light of his life will be snuffed out- and the Lord of life will be killed. For that is why He came! As He says in

John 18:11, put your sword in your sheath, Peter, shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me? The cup of wrath that we considered last week had been filled and placed in His hand- and Jesus would not resist- rather He would submit and obey! For the suffering and death of the Son of Man was not just the desire of the kingdom of darkness- it was not only the plan of these wicked men- the suffering and death of the Son of Man was according to the plan and design of the Father! Drinking this cup was the Father's will- so the Son would do it! You see, even though these human characters acted in wickedness, this too was according to God's divine plan! They meant it for evil- but God meant it for good- the saving of many lives! It was only through the death of the Son that the kingdom of darkness would be defeated! What the enemies did not know was that in drawing near to capture the Son, the head of the snake would be placed under His foot! It was through his arrest that the Son would have His victory and we would have our salvation! So Jesus heals the ear of this servant- replaces the ear on the head of Malchus and follows where the army of darkness leads Him. It is instructive that one of the last things that Jesus did with his hands before he was bound and led away was to heal the ear of one who came out seeking his arrest! Blessings His enemies and doing good to those who persecuted Him! The Son of Man must die- but He would give them no grounds for accusation! And He suffered for our sins- willingly taking the cup of wrath to drink it all- for our complete salvation!

To conclude, understanding the humility of the Son of Man- that He was willing to suffer in this way- is necessary for us to understand the depth of His love! Jesus knew what was coming, and He had the power to resist and even overthrow the enemy's plan at any time. Yet He resisted the path of least resistance as He chose to suffer the full extent of the curse of the Law. The Son of Man submits to His betrayal for the salvation of His people. The Lamb of God would need to die in order to take away the sins of the world- and it was through the kiss of a betraying friend that this course would pass. Praise God that Jesus chose this path- that when faced with an enemy army He did not fight for his own deliverance, nor did He flee in order to avoid pain- but rather He stood and submitted so that we might be saved!