

Gospel of Matthew "Garden Rebels"
Matthew 26:47-56
June 9, 2024

Mathew 26:47-56

47 While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.
48 Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." 49 And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. 50 Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. 51 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. 52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" 55 At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. 56 But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

The garden, a rebellion, and a sword.

John 18:1

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.

A place of betrayal.

Psalms 55:12-13

12 For it is not an enemy who taunts me—
then I could bear it;
it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me—
then I could hide from him.
13 But it is you, a man, my equal,
my companion, my familiar friend.

John 18:4-6

4 Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" 5 They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. 6 When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

God in the garden.

Rebellions institute the same values.

“Jesus isn’t trying to put new people in power, but a new power in people.” - Tim Keller

Luke 6:20-27

20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

21 “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

22 “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! 23 Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

Jesus Pronounces Woes

24 “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

25 “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

26 “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

Love Your Enemies

27 “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

Jesus raises up values that we avoid.

Matthew 26:52-53

Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?

When you put the sword away you are free.

1 Peter 3:8-9

8 Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. 9 Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

Jesus is going to go under the sword so you can put yours down.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1.) What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?

2.) Jesus walks through a valley known for betrayal. Are there places that you don’t enjoy going to because of a previous hurtful experience?

3.) Judas gives Jesus a kiss in the midst of betrayal. How do you begin to recover from a betrayal?

- 4.) Jesus asks a question, heals a soldier and is the only one of the group taken into custody. Discuss the idea that Jesus is in full control of his arrest. What does that mean for us?
- 5.) Why do we often start swinging swords? What did Jesus mean by the statement, "For all who take the sword will perish by the sword?" How does this reveal the difficult reversal of values from the kingdom of the world to the kingdom of God?
- 6.) Where are you swinging the sword right now? Where are you fighting? What higher value of the kingdom of God could be expressed?
- 7.) Ask your life group to help you apply God's word in this area.