

## **Christ's Sorrow in the Garden Part 2**

Mat 26:37- 38 (see also vss 39, 42, 44)

### Introduction

Last week we were examining Christ's sorrow in the garden and we also touched on several other points. First even though Christ was fully God, He was also fully man. Not only did He have the ability to feel what we feel, He felt what we feel. He felt happiness, He felt anger, He felt peace, He felt stress, and He felt sorrow. This is confirmed by the verses mentioned above. We also started looking at why He felt sorrowful in the garden, and said that one of the causes of His sorrow could have been the foreknowledge of the suffering that he going to have to endure. We looked at how He was delivered to an angry mob to be beaten and slapped. We looked at how He was delivered to Roman guards and scourged within an ounce of His life. We looked at how His kingship was disrespected when they placed a crown of thorns on His brow. We also examined the brutality of crucifixion so that we could better understand the torture and pain that Christ went through on our behalf. Today, we are going to look at another possible element of His sorrow: the fact that His apostles and closest disciples abandoned Him.

### I. Imagine Being Alone in a Trying Time

Imagine for a minute what it would feel like to be accused of committing a horrible crime. For example, you are in your living room one night and you are sitting on the couch watching TV. It's getting late so you are starting to doze off. Then all of a sudden you are startled by the sound of banging on the front door. You begin to question yourself, "Did I just hear someone knock on my door", but your suspicion is confirmed by more banging. You stand up and gather yourself and you walk to the front door and then you notice flashing lights in the window. As you get closer, you hear murmuring and multiple voices outside your home. You go to the door and open it and you see policemen, news reporters, and other bystanders standing in front of your home. The policemen ask for your name and you tell them and they tell you that you are under arrest and ask you to come with them. You ask them, "what is all this about" and they say that you are under arrest for the death of 11 individuals whose names

they rattle off. You tell them how ridiculous this is and that you are innocent, but they insist that you come with them. One of the police men begins to read you your rights while another grabs your hands and places them behind your back. You are then led outside where the lights from television cameras are shining in your face so brightly that you can hardly see. Reporters are gathering around you and begin asking questions like “did you murder all those women?”, “what made you do it?”, and “how do you feel now?”. Also others are yelling all types of slanderous things at you and call you all types of names. The policeman throws you into the back of a police car and you are taken down town and you have to go through all the normal procedures that criminals go through. Then they ask you who you would like to make your one phone call to; you call your lawyer. He answers the phone and you tell him who it is and he hangs up on you. Then you are led to a jail cell, which is temporarily your new home. You spend the night there and in the morning you are fortunately able to post bail. You call up your family and you only get their voice mail. When you go to their house you hear noise and people inside but then when you ring the doorbell it quiets down and you hear nothing. You try calling some friends and some hang up on you and others just connect you to voice mail. One person even goes as far as to say, “I don’t know you anymore.” The irony of the whole situation is that you were publicly touted as a model citizen because you did so much for the community. Your life’s work is to lift up and assist the community. As much as you tried to help them, you helped your friends and family that much more. However they all still turned their backs on you, even though you honestly did not do anything. How would that make you feel? How would it make you feel to know that the people that you were the closest to turned their backs on you? How would it make you feel to know that the people you spent most of your time with would leave you when times got hard? How would it make you feel to know that people you choose to be your closest companions would abandon you and even deny knowing you, when you were at the roughest point in your life?

A. Scripture foretold of him being abandoned

1. Matt. 26:31 – (Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of me this night for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’”

2. Isaiah 53:6 – (And we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

B. But if He knew these things were going to happen He wouldn't be sad would He? In John 11 we have the story of Lazarus. In this account Jesus knew that Lazarus was dead and as a result he stayed where He was 2 more days. He knew that He was going to raise him from the dead and He told the apostles that He was not there when he was sick so that they could believe. He purposely waited until he had been dead for 4 days because He knew He was going to raise him. He even thanked God for hearing Him even before He actually raised him because He knew He was going to raise him from the dead. Yet, when Jesus saw Mary weeping and saw where His friend Lazarus was laying He still cried.

II. I would suggest to you, that even though He knew they were going to abandon Him, maybe part of the sorrow He felt was when:

- A. Andrew (who immediately followed Jesus when they heard John say, "behold the Lamb of God"...who asked Jesus where he was staying and followed Him there...who enthusiastically told his brother Peter we found the Messiah...who was there when Jesus was teaching the thousands upon thousands of people He came in contact with...) abandoned Him.
- B. James (whom He called while he was mending a net...who saw Christ transfigured before him with his clothes gleaming white... who saw Him in the presence of Moses and Elijah, who heard God say, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"...who was in the garden with Him while he prayed and stood watch as he sweat dropped of his brow like blood...who is referred to be in the inner circle of Jesus...) abandoned Him.
- C. John (whom Jesus called out of the same boat along with James... who was with Jesus when He healed Peter's mother-in-law of a fever...who asked Jesus if he and James could sit on His right hand and on His left...who is sometimes referred to as one of the sons of thunder for asking Jesus would He make fire come from heaven like Elijah did...who helped prepare Christ's last Passover

meal...who was referred to as the disciple Jesus loved...) was made to stumble because of him.

- D. Peter (who Jesus assisted in making a miraculous catch of fish... who acknowledged that Christ had the words of life and said where would we go...who confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, the son of the living God...who Jesus referred to as the rock and who Christ said that He would give the keys of the kingdom to... who repeatedly said that he would never leave Christ or forsake Him... who said, "even if all are made to stumble because of you, I will never be made to stumble"...who said, "Even if I have to die with you, I will not deny you."...)denied that he knew Him and denied that he was one of His followers three times and then abandoned Him.

What these men did and went through is what all of His disciples did and went through. Jesus was a stumbling block for all of them and when the shepherd was struck, all the sheep were scattered (Mk 14:27). The fact that His disciples and friends and the people that He was the closest to would leave Him is something that He knew was going to happen. He knew it when He was in the garden. Could it be that the knowledge of these things was in part a reason for the sorrow that He felt in the garden? As we partake of the Lord's Supper let's remember the sorrow He must have felt to have His disciples abandon Him. Most importantly let us remember that He went through this sorrow on account of us.