

Journey of Faith

(John 18:1-27)

Introduction-

We thank God for all the good things in life
(Job, home, health, good family)
-God is good!

Jesus, in the narration that follows, read outside its context ...

What looks like failure

A. This chapter is about the betrayal of Jesus.
(it's Judas who leads this mob)–

1. Jesus, after having this last supper takes His disciples to this common place–olive garden

John 18:1-4

- a. The mob appears on the scene
(2 intense reactions-- Peter & Jesus)

John 18:10, 11a

- b. It looks like the darkness has overcome, even Jesus.

John 18:12,13

2. This chapter is also about the denial of Peter later in the evening.
 - a. The unnamed disciple in v. 16 speaks to the servant girl (v. 16).
 - b. But notice v. 17- "*You are not one of his disciples, are you?*"
 - c. A little later we notice- (Peter warming himself & a relative of Malchus) **18:25-27**

B. Things look pretty bad, don't they?

- Jesus arrested
- Disciples are useless to Him
- Looks like the dark side is victorious

This awful night is filled with betrayal and denial! But it only appears to be a failure!

The reality of God's hand

A. It is so like God to contrast between mere appearances
(*"Stop judging by mere appearances 7:24*)

1. We tend to judge with human eyes & understanding and not trusting God
2. From the very beginning **(1:5)**

3. Jesus works diligently to prepare His disciples
 - 2:4 “my time has not yet come”
 - 7:30 “no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come”
 - 8:20 (If you knew me, you would know my father) “Yet no one seized Him (time)”

There's no doubt that disciples/enemies failed to understand who's charge here!

B. Chpt. 18 shows Jesus to be Divine! not confused-anxious-victimized

1. A Divine plan between the Father and the Son and the HS-- timed perfectly!
2. Jesus is the one who takes charge of every step.
"Who is it you want? John 18:4-8a
3. This is not a scene of someone taking Jesus' life/ Jesus is laying down His life

C. Our English translation

1. His claim of Deity ultimately sentences Him to death.
vv. 5&6 “I am He.” And the mob falls
2. The literal translation is “I am.” like in vv. 8:24,28&59--

D. So who's really taking charge here?

1. If you want me, leave the others alone v. 8
2. This is the good shepherd laying down his life for his sheep
10:11,17-20
3. Remember how Jesus responded to Peter when he struck his sword?
18:11b Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

Peter's rebuked for standing in the way of His “hour” that had come.

The Obvious that's not always obvious

A. Evil seems to triumph (short view of things)

1. If we judge things by the immediate situations of our pain, our sorrows and physical reality
2. Many times we find ourselves judging Jesus by what is happening at the moment.
 - Look at John the Baptist (Matt. 11:2ff)

- It must have been awesome for John... Repent for the Kingdom of God is near.
- But now he feels vulnerable and abandoned.

B. Its easy to feel hopeless as we look to the future.
(Remember 9/11?)

1. National security/stock-market/cultural battle
(homosexuality/materialism/abortion, political battles over morality in which our children will grow up, we are affected!)
2. **But what about life in Christ?**
3. Are we going to feel hopeless because the world seems to be getting worse instead of better?

Conclusion

A. Christ was different than his disciples (poor vision)

1. They saw the glory of King David's Golden Age and pictured themselves in key positions.
2. They dreamed of being honored at the right hand of the Messiah
3. They never counted on the crucifixion of their leader
 - Their imprisonment or martyrdom
 - The immaturity of some church members etc...

B. So how is *your* spiritual life today?

- An intact marriage
- Healthy children
- Good job

1. Warning! These things may shape your answer!

- You may be judging your spiritual life by the wrong factors
 - Are you sad?
 - Lost a job?
 - Seriously ill?
 - Trouble in your family?

2. These things may have you angry at God and feeling betrayed or orphaned.

- God is still light, and there is no darkness in him-
- 1 Jo 1:5**

Here's your message--

Perhaps some of us need to repent of judging God by our immediate circumstances and believe his promise that the darkness cannot overcome his redemptive purposes in our lives.

If you judge God by the situation you are in today (Whether if good or bad things are happening in your life), you may seriously misjudge him. Things have to be seen from the perspective of eternity, in light of God's sovereign purposes, and for the sake of our eternal redemption.

Listen! The darkness hasn't triumphed – and it can't. Unless we can trust him in the dark moments, our faith is still childish and unreliable. He is still at work and moving toward his sovereign goal. If we yield to our fear of the darkness, we stand to miss getting to share in his triumph. It was Judas who left Jesus and went into the night.

We have an option... but remember that Jesus is the light of the world!

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