





TWO PLANS IN COUNTERPOINT

One: The Destruction of God's Plan

Two: The Fulfillment of God's Plan

IT'S WHO WE KNOW JESUS TO BE THAT KEEPS US STRONG IN ADVERSITY

Scene One

Preparation and Agony 22:39-46

PRAY SO THAT YOU ARE NOT TEMPTED.

Hebrews 4:15 "Therefore let us approach with confidence to the throne of grace, in order that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

> Prayer requires honesty, humility and a willingness to be led differently.

We tend to want to find the way out, instead, God granted the ability through his strength and grace, allowing Jesus to walk through the adversity, not avoid it.

1 Corinthians 10:13-14 "Temptation has not come upon you except what is common to humanity. But God is faithful, who will not permit you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but will also make a way out together with the temptation, so that you may be able to endure it."

We can go to God in prayer about our anxieties and pain because God cares more about us than we understand or believe.

PRAY SO THAT YOU ARE NOT TEMPTED.

Scene Two

The Arrest 22:47-53

"Are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

THEY HADN'T PRAYED AS INSTRUCTED

They weren't prepared for the confrontation. Their response was out of their flesh.

Scene Three

The Denial 22:54-62

Jesus is disowned by Peter through an act of self-preservation.

When actions are driven by self-preservation, we tend to eventually self-destruct in spite of the truths we claim to believe.

Rather than **hide** behind self-preservation, we should **look** to Jesus and have the assurance of who he is so that we can have the confidence to stand strong in him.

Scene Four

The Decision 22:67-71

'THE MISHNAH' - JUDAISM'S REGULATIONS

- 1. The trial didn't take place in the Temple.
- 2. Jesus was allowed no defense.
- 3. Jesus does not blaspheme; Son of God was his name.
- 4. The verdict came on the same day as the trial.
- 5. Jesus is tried on a feast day prohibited.
- 6. Contradictory testimony is meant to exonerate, not condemn from another angle.
- 7. The High Priest was not to pronounce the verdict.

"IF YOU ARE THE CHRIST, TELL US."

"If I tell you, you won't believe me." "The Son of Man will sit at the right hand of the mighty God."

THREE IMPLICATIONS:

- 1. A prophetic statement about his death, resurrection and ascension; he **will** accomplish his mission.
- 2. He will utilize his authority as Messiah, God.
- 3. He has authority over them, even though they think he is on trial.

"Why do we need anymore testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."

> He makes no effort to save himself by denying who he is.

Scene Five

Innocent, but not released 23:1-25

 Pilate: Finds Jesus innocent, doesn't release him, but passes him to Herod, and plays the politically correct card.

 Herod: Wants to see a sign, but Jesus wouldn't be manipulated, so Herod passed him back to Pilate.

 Jewish leaders: Seen Jesus as a threat to religious power, so they politicized him, mocked his identity and convicted him through the mentality of the fickle mob in front of them.

Scene Six

Observations and Present Day

OBSERVATIONS

1. A historical account from the preparation to the conviction of Jesus.

2. Neutrality in following Jesus or in claiming who he is equals rejection of him.

 The failure of Peter stands in stark contrast to the nerve of and presence of Jesus. Peter protected himself; Jesus will die and raise for mankind.

 The Roman leaders, not looking for a fight with the Jews, rule by popular opinion to 'keep the peace' and maintain their civil relationship with the Jews.

 The Jewish leaders, seeing religion as a means to deal with culture and society, a means to give themselves power, see Jesus as a threat, as a growing nuisance needing to be minimized, not followed.

THE JUDGED BECAME THE JUDGE

His trial becomes our trial.

Who do you say that he is?

ARE WE LIKE PETER?

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- Are we listening to Jesus when he says to pray so we are not tempted?
- Are we confident that when he says, be anxious for nothing, that he means it?
- When Jesus says he is the Son of Man, are we convinced that he does understand us and that he demonstrated
- God's faithfulness for us in his earthly life? When Jesus says that he is the Son of God, do you trust his loving authority over you as stated in God's Word?

WHAT IF WE HAD PRAYED CONFIDENTLY, HUMBLY AND WERE OPEN TO BEING LED DIFFERENTLY?

- Would we have had a different response to the veiled threat at work?
- Would we have lashed out at our children when they were only seeking time with you?
- Would you have listened to understand in the last argument?
- Would you have spoken to bring encouragement, clarity and understanding?

BARABBAS was headed to a cross JESUS WAS NAILED TO IT.

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