

God's Glory in the Timing of Christ's Death
Mark 14:10-25

I. The Message for Our Times

A. God works in all things at all times for His glory

1. The Greatest Good in Personal and Global Events is the Father's glory
 - a. **Romans 8:28 (ESV) *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.***
 - (1) God works in all things in this world at all times for good
 - (2) And what is the greatest good in all creation?
 - (a) The Fathers' glory
 - (b) The manifestation in creation of the sum total of all God's perfection
 - (3) The greatest goal or purpose in every event of the Father's glory
 - (4) God works all things together for good and that good is the inestimable value and worth of God's glory
 - b. In other words, God works perfectly and continuously in human event to fulfill His unalterable mission to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory.
2. The message of good and glory in Mark 14
 - a. God will work in the hatred of the scribes and Pharisees toward Jesus for the good of His glory
 - b. God will work in the valuable sacrifice of an expensive perfume for the good of His glory
 - c. God will work in the vile betrayal of his close associates for the good of His glory
 - d. God will work in the ignorance and vulnerability and denials of weak disciples for the good of His glory
 - e. God will work in the arrest and trial of His Son for the good of His glory
 - f. God works all things together for the good of His glory, even the death of Jesus on the cross will be the working of God for the good of His glory.

B. The message for us

1. If we will by faith hold fast to the certainty that God works all things for good, and that the greatest good that can be gained in creation is the glory of God
2. Then we will rejoice with confidence and stand fast in faith
 - a. that the Father is faithfully at work completing His mission in us,
 - b. working for the good of His glory in our lives and in the world in which we live
 - c. regardless of the nature of the work.

II. God's Glory in the Timing of Christ's Death: Passover

A. The events of Mark 14 occur within the season of Passover

1. Passover:
 - a. Feast required by God
 - b. Remembrance of God's Deliverance of Israel
 - (1) Israel enslaved in Egypt for 400 years
 - (2) Moses and the 10 Plagues
 - (a) Final Plague: death of the firstborn
 - (b) To be "passed over" a family must slaughter and eat a lamb and paint its blood around the door
 - (c) This act of faith (trusting the instruction of God to carry the salvation of God, both from death and from Egypt) would deliver the Israelites from the judgment of God
2. Jesus and the Passover
 - a. Jesus is slain on the day the Passover lamb is slain
 - b. Much of what God meant for Israel to observe points to Christ
 - (1) A perfect lamb was sacrificed for the salvation of God's people
 - (2) The result of faith in the word of God about the Lamb meant deliverance from bondage (sin and the fear of death, hopelessness, separation from the presence and promises of God)
 - (3) The death of the Lamb exempted each faithful family from the death of the firstborn
 - (4) The blood of the Lamb applied to the door preserved from death: faith and obedience brought salvation
 - (5) While it was personal faith that gained the benefit, it was the blood of the Lamb that brought salvation
3. Passover does not mean "omit"
 - a. **Exodus 12:23 (ESV) For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.**
 - (1) The LORD will pass over the door and will not allow
 - (2) The destroyer to enter your house
 - b. Two agents at work here
 - (1) One is assigned the duty of death
 - (2) The other assumes the privilege of Protector
 - c. In this context,
 - (1) "pass over" means God's steps in and blocks the door so death cannot strike where faith is present
 - (2) **"Pass over" means God steps in to personally rescue His beloved people from the dire consequences of death and deliver them from enslavement**

B. It is in this context where God springs forward to interpose Himself between death and His faithful people that we must understand the life and death of Jesus Christ!

1. Jesus is God in the flesh who, acknowledging the just and sovereign decree of judgment upon sinners— upon us— thrusts Himself by His life and death and resurrection between death and God’s people of faith
2. This is what we must see that Judas the Betrayer missed:
 - a. Judas did not see Christ as the Passover Lamb who takes away the sins of the world
 - b. Judas did not see Jesus as the Passover Lamb who interposed His blood as salvation for sinners, of which Judas was most certainly one
 - c. Judas did not see Jesus as God stepping up and stepping in between himself and certain death.
3. Judas betrayed Jesus because he did not see Jesus for who Jesus truly is.
4. **And for the same reason, many today betray Jesus as well.**

C. Betrayal

1. Many come to the table week after week. They eat the bread and drink the communion cup, and while the wine is still moist on their lips they slander and betray Jesus with selfishness and pride and arrogance and jealousy and rage and lust.
2. They eat the bread, which is his body, but are then faithless and self-serving, lovers of many and lovers of the world but hardly lovers of Christ at all.
3. They drink the cup, the wine being the picture of the blood of the Lamb shed upon the cross for our salvation but the affection and desire of their hearts are for the privilege and rewards of this world.
 - a. They are men-pleasers not God-pleasers.
 - b. They are greedy for wealth and glory of their own in this world rather than the treasures and glory of God in heaven
 - c. They are ready to make the most of every opportunity to advance themselves in this world but are ever silent and inactive advancing the cause and the glory of God in the world.
4. These betrayers gather at the table but run with the world.
 - a. They betray Christ with
 - (1) Their thoughts
 - (2) Their intent
 - (3) Their words
 - (4) Their deeds
 - (5) Their desires
 - (6) Their loves
 - (7) Their lives
 - b. They betray Jesus because they will not see Jesus for Who He is and fall on their knees and worship Christ alone in faith alone
 - c. They accept that Christ gave His life for them but like Judas, do

- not give their hearts and lives to Christ.
- d. Like Israel long ago, despite all God has done to deliver them from slavery and bondage, they love Egypt more.

III. Put your faith in and give your life to Christ

A. Christ, the Passover Lamb

1. Has interposed Himself, His blood on the cross
2. To save you from guilt and sin
 - a. To give to you, through faith and the working of His Spirit
 - b. A new life of holiness and joy

B. Today will you believe in Christ or betray Christ.

1. Will you put your faith in Him and trust Him with your life,
2. Will you trust God in Christ to work all things for the good of His glory, even hard things, even hurt things, even things like war and inflation and disease and strife, even death?