

**EXPOSITIONAL SERMON  
on Mark 14:43-52**

**by Todd OBert**

**Holmes Bible College  
MIN 301 Homiletics I  
Professor Stacy Watford  
2/9/2021**

## **I. Story of Pope Leo and Attila the Hun**

- A. A generation before the fall of Rome, the church had become military as well as missionary in nature and focus.
- B. Shortly before the fall of Rome, Leo became what many historians consider as being the first real Pope.
- C. The church as it moved northward through Europe was met with hostile aggression by various groups of warring barbarians.
- D. Of those warring Barbarians was Attila the Hun
  - He was known to treat his victims very brutally with unimaginable means of torture.
- E. Pope Leo, who had been praying for God's mercy and deliverance for Rome, met with Attila and pleaded for his mercy on Rome.
- F. The story goes that Peter and Paul appeared at Leo's right hand and his left, they were bearing swords, and threatened Attila with death if he didn't listen to Leo.
- G. The story concludes as Attila wisely withdrew from Rome.
- H. Shortly thereafter though was the fall of Rome.
  - 1. it has been argued, that the fall of Rome was caused by rise of Christianity and its effect on the Roman psyche.
  - 2. others believe the decline and fall were due, in part, to the influx of 'barbarians' from the north and west.
  - 3. then others say it was due to the internal decay of the city itself.
  - 4. regardless, all of those things were happening.
    - a. Christianity was being spread throughout Europe
    - b. Various groups of raiders were attacking cities and provinces
    - c. There was rampant corruption within the government of Rome.

### **i. Through it all, Pope Leo continued to put his trust in God.**

**Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

## **II. Many Similarities to the Roman Empire with Our Country Today**

- A. The movement of Christianity and spread of the gospel.
- B. Without a doubt both empires were great at their peak.
- C. There was and is rampant corruption.
- D. It could be argued that there are warring barbarians bringing about destruction within this country today

## **III. What Can We Learn From History?**

- A. We as Christians certainly can learn from history but we ultimately must look to the Word of God to guide us, with the help of the Holy Spirit He places within each of us, to guide us into all truth (**John 16:13**).
- B. Let's look at the Word for a possible collaboration.

#### IV. Mark 14:43-52

- A. This is the story of when Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane
- B. This is just before Jesus is crucified.
- C. Let us consider all the persons involved in the story as I read from the Word.
- D. Read **Mark 14:43-52**.

#### V. The Characters

- A. Jesus of course is the primary character, or what is called the protagonist, the hero of the story.
- B. Judas could be called the main antagonist.
- C. The main supporting roles of the protagonist could be said to be Peter, who we find from the same story, in the book of John, to be the one wielding the sword, and in defense of Jesus, cut off the ear of the servant of the High Priest.
- D. Other supporting roles as antagonists are the chief priest, the scribes, the elders and all those who were with them carrying swords and clubs.
- E. Other supporting roles of the protagonist could be said to be the other disciples as well as the guy who lost his linen, or we could just call them extras or tertiary characters. Tertiary characters can be those who according to one definition, is one who flits in and out of the main character's life, which could certainly describe the man with the linen.
- F. If you've read a number of novels or watched enough movies you know that not all characters remain an antagonist or a supporter of the protagonist.
  - 1. Sometimes an antagonist joins the protagonist, a protagonist becomes an antagonist, and sometimes one of the characters becomes a tertiary character later in the story.
  - 2. Not all roles are clear sometimes. What may appear to be one in support of the protagonist may in fact be an antagonist and vice-versa.

#### VI. Let's Take a Closer Look at the Character's in the Garden.

- A. There's no question as to what Jesus' role was, as He was to be led to be crucified on a cross and to then raise from the dead on the third day, to give new life and hope to all who believe.
  - 1. Jesus had already told His disciples this.
  - 2. Jesus had told the disciples that He was to be betrayed by Judas.
- B. Judas as was mentioned had a clear role as the main antagonist although it could be argued that the Jewish leaders were really the main antagonist. Regardless, they were all most definitely against Jesus.

- C. Peter, as well as the rest of the disciples, excluding Judas, were defined in the gospels as being in support of Jesus.
- D. To the contrary, some of the chief priests, scribes, and elders were defined throughout the gospels as being against Jesus.
- E. Jesus had told all His disciples what would happen
  - 1. His betrayal
  - 2. His being taken into captivity
  - 3. His suffering
  - 4. His death
- F. Were the disciples trusting in Jesus and believing in His Word?

#### VII. How Then are the Characters Defined in This Story?

- A. The gospels, being Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, are the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- B. The role of Jesus Christ is in the fulfilling of the purpose of God the Father.
- C. Those who then operate **contrary to the will of God** as was spoken of by Jesus would then be **not trusting in God and not believing in His Word.**
- D. Peter then, wielding a sword and cutting off the guys ear
  - 1. that was contrary to the will of God.
  - 2. for Jesus ended up putting back his ear and healing it.
  - 3. so it could be said that Peter was not **trusting in God and not believing on His Word.**
- E. Could the priests, scribes, elders, and angry mob as well as Judas be considered in support of Jesus since, did they not, fulfill the will of God?
  - 1. **"woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born."** (Mark 14:21)
  - 2. therefore it can be said, that not only Judas, who is the one that Jesus was referring to, but also all the priests, scribes, and angry mob were not in support of Jesus, and most certainly were not **trusting in God** nor **believing on His Word.**
- G. Were the disciples who fled from Jesus and denied Him, acting contrary to the will of God?
  - 1. For Jesus had prophesied as such to His disciples, that they would forsake Him.
  - 2. **forsaking our Lord and Savior is never a good thing**
  - 3. therefore it can be said, that they were not **trusting in God** nor **believing on His Word.**
- H. The guy with the linen cloth
  - a. what did he think he was showing up for, a toga party perhaps?
  - b. No matter how you look at it, he certainly wasn't prepared to **follow Jesus.**

- I. Perhaps this was a missed opportunity for the disciples
  1. Had they understood what was going on they could have said their goodbyes, with hugs and kisses, etc.
  2. They could have even **followed Jesus to the cross.**

**Matthew 16:24-26** Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and **follow me.** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

#### **VIII. Your Role to Play Today**

- A. Will you play the role of Pope Leo and continue to **trust God** even if it means death, even death on a cross?
- B. I've heard Matthew 10:34 quoted out of context before where Jesus says, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword."
- C. In context this is what it says,  
"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And **he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.**" (Matthew 10:34-38)
- D. Will you play the role of Peter and try and take care of things you're own way?
- E. Will you be as the disciples and when the going gets tough, you will flee or will you **cling to your Savior?**
- E. Will you join the angry mob and take offense to Jesus who says He is the Son of God, that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life?
- F. Will you be the one who shows up in a time of trial dressed for a toga party and then become exposed?

#### **IX. The Three Points**

- g. **Will you, in all your ways trust in the Lord?**
- h. **Will you believe on the Lord Jesus and His Word?**
- i. **Will you follow Jesus unto death, even death on a cross?**

## X. The End of the Story

- A. Jesus was crucified. He died on the cross for our sins
- B. On the third day, Jesus rose from the grave, conquering death and paving the way for our eternal life in Him to all who will believe in Him.
- C. In the meantime, while we wait for His return as Jesus told His disciples later on in **Mark 16:15-16**, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
- D. **Hebrews 12:1-2** "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

## X. Application

A. This story isn't specifically talking about being saved or unsaved

1. It was already a given where Judas was going
2. It was already a given where the religious leaders who rejected Jesus were going
3. It was already determined the other 11 disciples, including Peter were saved, for they were forgiven.

B. This is about following Jesus no matter what the circumstances. "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

(Romans 8:18-23)

- C. Will you, beloved of the Lord, Who desires for none to perish and to come to the knowledge of His truth
  - 1. Trust in the Lord, no matter what?
  - 2. Will you believe on His Word, and look to Jesus to guide you into His truth
  - 3. Will you follow Jesus wherever He may go

**John 10:27-28** "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

**XI. This Message is a Call to Trust on Christ, Believe on Christ and His Word, and then to Follow Christ**

- A. First, If you haven't accepted the free gift of salvation in Jesus Christ that ensures us eternal life, today is the day.

**John 3:16-17** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

- B. If you were one of those characters that previously fled the scene, will you recommit your life to follow Jesus?
- C. Let us pray