

A photograph of Jesus walking on water, seen from behind. He is wearing a white robe and is walking on a calm sea under a dramatic, cloudy sky at sunset or sunrise. The water is dark blue with gentle ripples, and the sky is a mix of dark blues and oranges from the low sun. The overall mood is serene and powerful.

Following JESUS

Part 11 – Trials, Temptations, Triumphs

Introduction...

- As we approach the final sessions around this series, we want to FOLLOW Jesus in His final hours.
- The context of a Man carrying the 'weight' of the world on His Shoulders yet behaving with such dignity, love and compassion helps to teach us great lessons.
- As we deal with heavy matters that weigh on us, how do we interact with saints and sinners alike?





The Passover Meal

- *Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.*
- *²And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him,*
- *³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.*
- *⁵After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded*
John 13

He loved them...

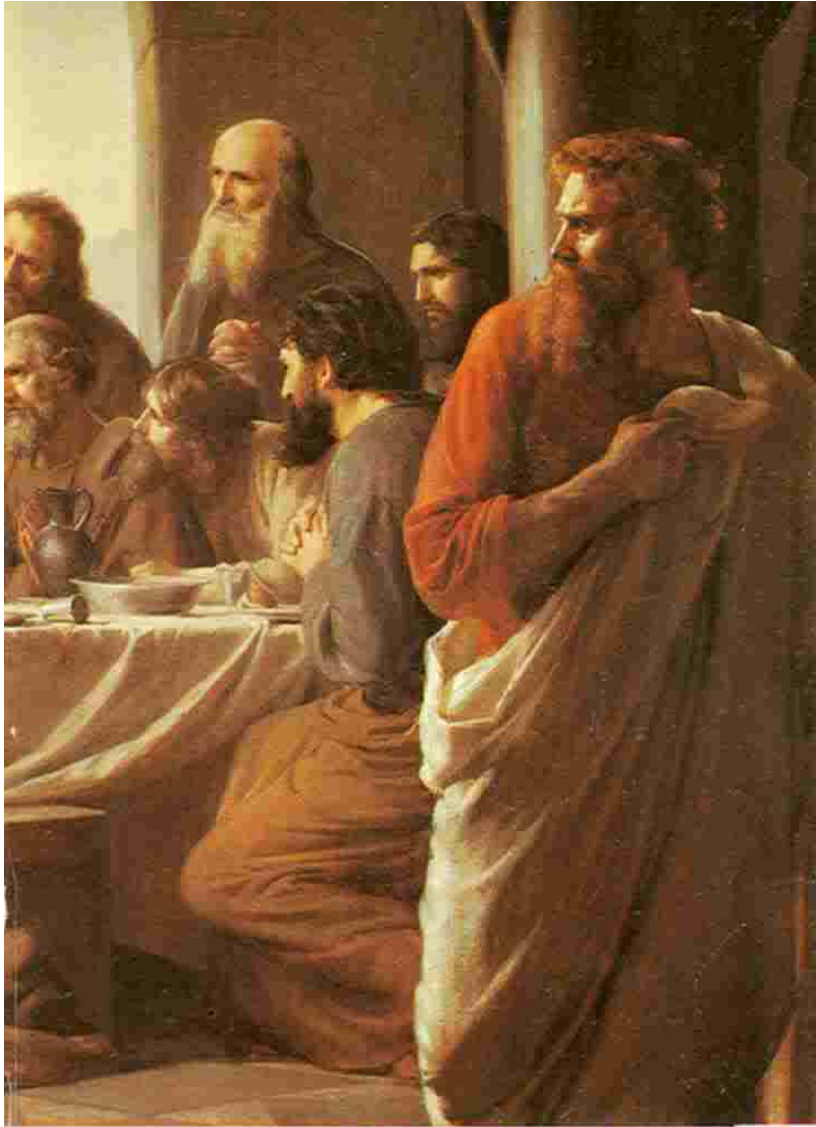
- Jesus loved His disciples unto the end
- He demonstrates how we should behave towards those in our lives
- Love is the greatest quality we should all live by.
- Through thick and thin, we need to love those who God has placed in our lives unto the end.
- Forgiveness, patience and longsuffering are key qualities within LOVE.





Jesus and Judas

- *21 When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.” 22 Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.*
- *23 Now there was ^[d]leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.*
- *25 Then, leaning ^[a]back on Jesus’ breast, he said to Him, “Lord, who is it?”*
- *26 Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.” And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.*
- *27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.” 28 But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him*
John 13



Judas...

- *What you do, do quickly.”²⁸ But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him*
- *How do we behave towards those who have betrayed us?*
- *The fact that nobody knew there was ‘something’ going on between Jesus and Judas is a great credit to Jesus’ character and maturity.*
- *Everyone knows the way we sense there’s a matter between friends at school or with someone in the family.*
- *People normally will ask each other or the guilty party “what’s going on between you two”?*
- *How come Jesus not once showed Judas any attitude???*
- *The person who is going to betray You is living with you and nobody knows??*



Jesus and Peter

- *³⁶ Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?”*
- *Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward.”*
- *³⁷ Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake.”*
- *³⁸ Jesus answered him, “Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.*
John 13

Jesus and Peter

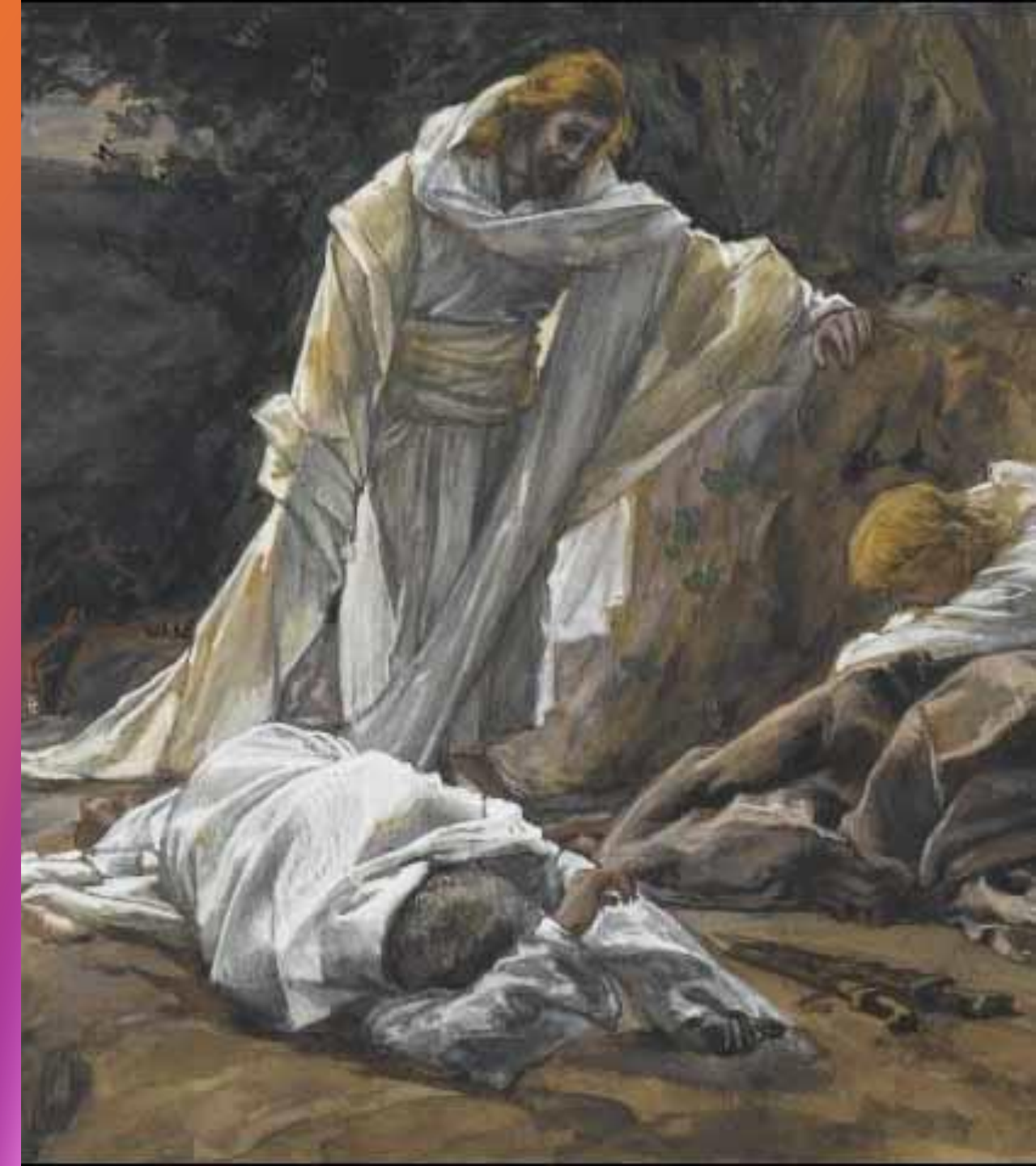
- Jesus is probably still dealing with Judas betrayal when Peter adds his own!
- Peter the Denier !!
- Another form of betrayal
- How would you have reacted to your close disciples on the night preceding your horrible death?
- Some of us would have shouted at someone!
- Some of us would have walked out of the room or maybe slapped Peter?
- How do we handle close relationships that let us down...badly?



The Garden...



- *36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."*
- *37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.*
- *38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."*
- *39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying,*
"O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."
- Matthew 26



The Garden...

- We see how transparent Jesus is with His disciples and very human with them.
- He is easy to be around!
- Even when they sleep on Him, He just gets on with it!
- Jesus focuses on the assignment and does not get bogged down with disappointments
- He submits to the Father's Will even when His body and self, do not want to submit.
- He overcame temptation by “praying through” into the Will of God!



Judas...again

- *47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.*
- *48 Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him."*
- *49 Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.*
- *50 But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?"*
- *Then they came and laid hands, on Jesus and took Him.*
Matthew 26



...again!

- I am sure, Jesus was tempted to do something horrible to Judas!
- The enemy would have tempted him to slap him, poke his eye, kick him, or something else.
- It's the nature of humans to live by the rule "an eye for an eye"
- Yet Jesus allows Himself to be kissed!
- Some of us would have a knife nearby or maybe a needle?
- Since you are being betrayed by a friend!
- Since you are going to die by this betrayal, let me leave a mark on my enemy!
- Jesus does none of this!
- The Bible does not record what the other disciples said or cursed Judas with when they realised what He had done!

Jesus and Pilate

- *11 Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying,*
- *“Are You the King of the Jews?”*
- *Jesus said to him, “It is as you say.”*
- *12 And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.*
- *13 Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?”*
- *14 But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.*
- Matthew 27



...Wow!

- The Governor was very surprised at Jesus response (or non-response) to all the accusations.
- He was most likely used to people shouting their innocence, cursing and begging for their life!
- Here is a Man unperturbed by the lies and the crowd accusing and cursing him.
- He had not seen anything like it!
- As we follow Jesus with our character and nature, let us challenge the status quo and surprise people by our response to scandalous malicious lies.
- Let our response or none response bring people to Jesus.



In a Dream...

- *17 Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them,*
- *“Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?”*
- *18 For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.*
- *19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying,*
- *“Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.”*
Matthew 27



...In a Dream

- It's interesting that in the middle of Matthew account and narrative, we come across this footnote.
- Pilate's Wife has a spiritual encounter regarding Jesus and accurately describes Him as a just Man.
- This shows us that when we follow the Lord, even the spiritual realm will endorse us.
- Those with sincere hearts will receive confirmation of who we are and what we represent



Forgive Them...

- ³³ *And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.*
- ³⁴ *Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”*
- *And they divided His garments and cast lots. ³⁵ And the people stood looking on.*
- *But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God.”*
- ³⁶ *The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine,*
- ³⁷ *and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.”*
Luke 23



Forgive them...

- The spirit of Christ is over and above the sinful flesh.
- In our reflection of what our LORD went through to save us. We see the sheer provocation.
- The beatings, the nails, the pain, the aggravation, the shame, the suffering;
- “Father forgive them...”
- What have we gone through by way of suffering that compares to that of Jesus?
- Whom have we truly forgiven despite their evil deeds towards us
- The mocking of God would have been a temptation of His divinity.
- If I were God in this scenario, what would have been my reaction?



Peace....

- *³⁶ Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you."*
- *³⁷ But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.*
- *³⁸ And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?"*
- *³⁹ Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see,*
- *for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."*

Luke 24



Peace...

- God is extremely patient with us.
- Even in our unbelief and fear, He still believes in us and shows up in our lives.
- Jesus appears to His fearful Disciples and does not punish them with harsh words and chastisement
- Instead, He woees them into faith and belief.
- Jesus shows us how to be patient with those weaker than us in mind and spirit.
- He shows us how to have forgiveness in your heart. These were the same friends who lived with him for years.
- In the hour of need they ALL fled and ran away.
- Yet He comes back to these same guys and builds them up again!



HOMework

