

The Final Countdown  
Various Passages  
The Laurel Center  
March 13, 2015

**Main Idea:** Even when you feel like you're all alone, God is always with you.

Introduction

After the early Passover dinner on Thursday evening Jesus and the disciples began their travel toward the garden of Gethsemane. John 15 begins the roughly two-mile trek from Jerusalem to Gethsemane. Thursday night into Friday morning was the last time that Jesus would see his disciples.

Doing this might by the time of his arrest the disciples would abandon him and worry about their own lives. Even before his arrest the disciples were not with him. While Jesus prayed for himself they found it hard to stay awake. Surely the day had been a long one is the celebrated early the Passover meal. All of the preparation that would've taken a couple days was rolled into one. But even though Jesus found himself alone in his prayers and throughout that night, the Father was with him every step of the way.

Traveling to Gethsemane

John 15:1-11 – I am the vine

- Jesus used a word picture image after passing a vine on the way to the garden of Gethsemane.
- We must remain in Jesus and stay connected in relationship to him.
- Without Jesus we can do nothing.

John 15:12-17 – follow my commands

- Jesus' disciples demonstrate their love through sacrifice.
- Jesus chose us to be his friends and accomplish his father's will.

John 15:18-16:4a – the world's hate

- the world hates Jesus' disciples because it hates Jesus.
- Because Jesus' disciples are not of the world but still in it the world hates them.
- Jesus made the world aware of its sin.

John 16:4b-15 – the Helper's mission

- the spirit of truth always bears witness to Jesus.
- Convict the world concerning sin – disbelief in Jesus.
- convict the world concerning righteousness – Jesus is physically absent.
- convict the world concerning judgment – the devil is judged already.

John 16:16-24 – sorrow into joy

- sorrow because Jesus is no longer physically present.

- Joy because he is coming again to be with us.

John 16:25-33 –overcoming the world

- a deeper connection with the father directly.
- We can have peace because Jesus has overcome the world.

### In Gethsemane

John 17: 1-5 – believers glorify the father

John 17:6-19 – sanctity among believers

John 17: 20-26 – unity among believers

prayer in Gethsemane – Matthew 26: 36-46; Mark 14: 32-42; Luke 22:39-46; John 18: 1

- Jesus prays three times.
- He asks the Lord to lift the cup of judgment for the world's sin.
- The bowels his own will to the father's will.

the Lord's arrest – Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:2-12

- Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss, the sign of a friend.
- The darkness of the late-night would've kept the people from seeing Jesus plainly.
- When Jesus is seized, Peter cuts off the priest's servant's ear.
- Jesus heals the servant to show his kingdom principles over this world's kingdoms.

### To Jerusalem

the trial with Jews – Matthew 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:13-24

- the Jewish charge against Jesus was blasphemy. It carried the sentence of stoning to death.
- The Roman charge against Jesus was calling himself the King. The scary the sentence of crucifixion.

### At the Pretoria

before Pilate – Matthew 27: 1-2; Mark 15:1; Luke 23:1; John 18:28

### In Jerusalem

the trial with Herod – Luke 23:6-12

- only Luke tells us about this occurrence.
- Herod would have been visiting Jerusalem for the Passover. His on-base what had been in Judea.
- Herod finds nothing entertaining about Jesus and is sad to not see him do a miracle for him.

### At the Pretoria

back with Pilate – Matthew 27: 11-14; Mark 15:2-5; Luke 23:2-5; John 18:29-38

- Pilate's goal to find Jesus guilty of proclaiming himself a King or an anarchist.

- Pilate finds Jesus innocent.
- John records that Pilate asked Jesus what truth is. He is a pragmatist politically. He's always looking for a way to survive.
- He does not stick around to find out what the answer to question is. We know from Jesus' teachings that truth is the person of Jesus.
- Pilate is only trying to sway the crowds to go home. His only trying to stop a ride from happening.

#### Barabas released

- in an attempt to save Jesus from the crowd's anger, Pilate offers up a murderer instead of Jesus' death.
- The people choose the murderer over the innocent.
- Pilate washes his hands of the matter.

#### The Roman Barracks

##### the Roman scourging

- Pilate allows Jesus to be scourged to shame the crowd away from crucifixion.
- Roman scourging is done with a cat-o-nine tails whip. Composed of leather with bone, shards of metal, and stones threaded into the whip.
- The number of times the victim was whipped was up to the Roman guard. They were usually more brutal to common criminals and insurgents.

#### Conclusion

We can see that although Jesus was alone and his disciples did not stand with them, God was with him and would be with him throughout the worst of his suffering. God is with all of us even in the worst of times. He is with us through the darkness and the pain. Seeing how Jesus died and addressing it each year helps us to never forget what Jesus has done for each of us. We know we are truly saved when we see the suffering that he endured on our behalf. Let us accept it and give him the glory!