

# A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

## An Expository Study of the Gospel According to Luke Chapter 22- Luke 22:35-38 331- Jesus Changes Things

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### Luke 22:35-38

**35** And He said to them, "When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?" They said, "No, nothing."

**36** And He said to them, "But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one."

**37** "For I tell you that this which is written must be fulfilled in Me, '**AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH TRANSGRESSORS**'; for that which refers to Me has *its* fulfillment."

**38** They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."

To the Glory of God

Now there is a Truth about God that we need to comprehend. The Holy Bible teaches that God is "immutable". Now to be immutable means that God doesn't change. So God never becomes wiser over time, or more experienced. God never learns anything new because, in addition to being immutable, God is also Omniscient.

And Omniscient means that God knows everything about everything. So God doesn't *plan* to do something and then is defeated by circumstances that He didn't foresee. God's Will and Plan are absolute. Nothing can change it; not satan, and not the seemingly random decisions of evil men.

So, God doesn't pray. God doesn't read or study the Bible. God doesn't alter His Will and Plan to suit events. God doesn't hope or try. God *does*. God never *wants* to do something, but is defeated by evil

people. What God wants, He gets. What is God's Will, will happen. And it will happen *exactly* as He said. God said this about Himself in:

**Malachi 3:6**

**For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.**

And that means that what God said is reliable. What God promised is trustworthy; it is sure and certain and unchangeable. And so we can depend on what God said. We can base our lives on the Words of God.

But even though God *Himself* is immutable, how He *works* with Man and how He *deals* with Man, *does* change. For example, it was God Who commanded that those who loved and served Him under the Old Covenant must sacrifice animals. And those who did *not* sacrifice animals were cut off from God's people. And yet under the infinitely superior New Covenant we put all our trust in a single Sacrifice that was offered just one time, the sinless Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, Who was slain 2,000 years ago as a propitiation for our sins.

And this is so absolute that if anyone today seeks to sacrifice an animal, he would be sinning, because he would be either *ignoring* or *marginalizing* the infinitely superior Sacrifice of the Savior of the world. What was once *commanded* by God is now completely *abandoned* by those who know and love the Truth.

Under the Old Covenant, God spoke through Prophets. But before God spoke through Prophets, God spoke through "Seers". And before that, God spoke mysteriously through the "Urim and the Thummim", which evidently was a very primitive method that only gave "yes" and "no" answers. But today, under the New Covenant, things have changed. Today, the writer of **Hebrews** tells us how God communicates to Mankind in **Hebrews 1:1-4**:

**1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,**

**2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.**

**3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.**

So even though God Himself is absolutely immutable, how God relates to Man and by what way Man may understand God *has* changed. And if you don't keep the Passage in its proper context, and if you don't do the proper exegesis on the Passage, you will miss this Change.

Now, in the Passage that Brother Andy just read to you, Jesus makes one of these changes when He said:

**Luke 22:35b-36**

**35 ... When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you? They said, "No, nothing."**

**36 And He said to them, "But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one.**

Now you will remember that earlier in His earthly Ministry, back in Chapter 9, Jesus had told them:

**Luke 9:3**

**Take nothing for *your* journey, neither a staff, nor a bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not *even* have two tunics apiece.**

... and yet here He tells them:

**Luke 22:36b**

**... But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag, and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one.**

So what is going on here? Is Jesus contradicting Himself? Is He talking out of both sides of His Mouth? Or, is Jesus teaching His disciples to arm themselves here? Is Jesus preparing His followers to physically and literally battle against the unbelievers with weapons,

like the Qu-ran teaches Muslims to do? Is Jesus instituting the concept of self-defense? What is going on?

This is where putting this Passage into its proper context and conducting a thorough exegesis is invaluable in us determining just what Jesus is teaching here.

Now let me say first of all that I have been saved for over 45 years. And in my nearly 5 decades of my journeying with Jesus, I have never heard a single sermon from this Passage. I have heard countless sermons from the Passage that we went over last week, with Peter and his denial of the Lord, but I have never heard a single sermon or teaching on this Passage. And I think that is significant.

You see, I believe with all my heart that we are living in the day of the Great "Falling Away", a day of great compromise and a day of breathtaking lukewarmness and shallowness on the part of far too many in the modern Church. I believe that because many of the leaders of the modern Church have compromised and changed and even hidden the glorious Biblical Gospel, that the visible Church is filled with souls that are not truly saved. They are not regenerated and have not experienced the miracle of the New Birth. And so the modern Church, for the most part, is no longer the place to go to get serious, deep, and adult discussions about serious, deep and eternal matters.

No, the people of the Church today are being *entertained* by words and sounds that have a "religious" tenor to them, they are somewhat *related* to spiritual issues, but they are not being *edified*. The people of the Church are being *entertained*, but they are not being *equipped* to overcome sin; they are not being *empowered* to walk this world in white; they are not being *enabled* to deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Jesus. They are not being encouraged to live well, to suffer well, and to die well, to the Glory of God. And this is what the Apostle Paul meant when he prophesied in **2 Timothy 4:3-4**:

**3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,**

**4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.**

The people of the modern Church, for the most part, are having a *sensual* experience with the smoke machines and the colored lights and

world class guitar players and a lot of hoop and holler, but they are *not* seeing the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ through the expositional *heralding* of the glorious Gospel. And as a result of *not* seeing that Glory, they are *not* being changed.

And that is because the pulpits of the modern American Church are filled with politics and social issues and moral pronouncements, but they are not filled with God. They are not filled with God and the *particularities* of His Glory. And so, the people of the modern Church are left with very shallow and very vague *generalities* about God that leave our heads empty of the infinite Majesty and Worth and Awe of the spectacular Glory of God.

The pulpits today are *not* filled with men who *themselves* have been overcome by this Glory, and who have become convinced that God's Word is true, and so they crack jokes and they tell tales and they make moral pronouncements while the people remain unbroken, unbent, and unbowed.

The 66 Books of the Holy Bible are the most unique and special Words in all the world, and why they aren't being preached and taught and proclaimed in all their Glory is the great shame of our day.

So God is sovereignly raising up men who so believe that it is the Scriptures that need to be taught and explained and heralded, that we have dedicated our lives to the study of those 66 Books, and to learn them, and to analyze them, and to personally investigate the claims that they make, so that we will be equipped and qualified to tell all men about the hope that lies within us.

Listen, any good lawyer can speak eloquently, and business leaders can use clever phrases and slick marketing slogans to manipulate people. So-called Christian TV is full of psychological motivational speakers masquerading as preachers of the Gospel. And God knows that politicians can cause people to scream and dance and jump around. But when a humble, broken man of God speaks God's Word accurately and fully without compromise, souls are converted, and hearts are pierced through and divided, heads are bowed under deep conviction, self-righteousness melts away, hard hearts are broken, black hearts are washed whiter than snow, unbelief turns to belief, and the miracle of Salvation is manifested on the earth again.

And when we preach that Word, that Divinely inspired Word, it is true and it is eternal and it is binding on the conscience of every man

who lives in every country under every Governmental system in the world for all time. And so when we speak the Words that came out of God's Mouth, we speak them with Authority, without apology, without hesitation, without embarrassment, and we speak them as they are, perfect and true, and commands that are imposed by a loving and Almighty God on all that He has created, souls are saved, and God is glorified.

The men who stand and preach the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ are called and chosen and selected and handpicked by Jesus Himself to dedicate their lives to one single cause, the Glory of God. And so they herald Divine Truth through the accurate and complete proclamation of the only Book that God gave to Man.

These men are not to build their own kingdoms, they are not to make themselves of any importance, they are not to make merchandise of God's people, they are not to grow fat and wealthy off the backs of the poor; they are not to become self-appointed and unaccountable prima donnas- who must be catered to and waited on. No, they are to be humble, faithful, self-sacrificing bond-slaves of the Lord Christ Himself living only to do His bidding.

And these humbled, broken, trembling men stand behind a pulpit that is ablaze with the Holiness and the Righteousness of Jesus Christ Himself, and they thunder the Word of God in fullness without the slightest bit of hesitation or embarrassment about how much or how little what God has said may fit in with the sensibilities of lukewarm or unsaved Church members.

So their steps are sure, their speech is sound, their voice is unwavering, not because they are self-righteous or cocky, but because what they speak and what they teach is not their *own* words, it is not their *own* personal experiences, and it is not their *own* opinions, but it is the inspired Word of the living God.

And these men preach this way because as they stand trembling in the pulpits, they can hear two sounds. On the one side, they hear the rejoicing of the multitudes of Heaven who have been washed in the Blood of the Lamb. And in hearing that, the preacher begs sinners to not miss that. And on the other side, they hear the screams of those who refused to repent and who are forever damned in the lake of fire. And moved with terror, the preacher begs sinners to hurry and repent so they will never know a second of that.

*That* is why I think I have never heard a single sermon in 45 years from this Passage.

So what is the proper context of this Passage? Well, to begin with, this all occurs at the Last Supper. And all of this *busyness* is going on in what is supposed to be a very holy and sacred Service, where Jesus Himself is instituting the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. And yet we see horrific sin being conducted in this Service:

- ✓ Satan enters into Judas' heart.
- ✓ Judas leaves to betray the Lord.
- ✓ The disciples are filled with pride, arrogance, self-righteousness, and human ambition.

... all during the Communion Service! And so, now, Jesus is about to paint these men into a corner, and so He asks them in verse 35:

**When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?**

... and this "sending out" began back in **Luke 10:3-4**. And the disciples answered at the end of verse 35:

**No, nothing.**

Now let me give you some background that will help to inform your understanding of this. Jesus is reminding them here of just how special and unique their time with Him has been. He is reminding these men how their previous ministry had been received by the people, and how Jesus had Personally *protected* them and *provided* for them. These men had been generally received very well during the three-year ministry of our Lord in Galilee and in Judea. Dr. Luke has been faithful to tell us over 22 Chapters that while Jesus has been thoroughly rejected by the religious leaders, He and His followers have been welcomed by the massive crowds who were thrilled to have Him there as He taught and as He healed and as He cast out demons.

This sea of people all wanted Jesus in their towns and they wanted Jesus in their presence. And so, the people were generally very happy to receive those who were with Jesus. So you might say that

they had been welcomed everywhere they went, by the world, in general. And when I say "world", I mean in the broad sense those who are *outside* the Kingdom of God, and therefore, are naturally *set against* the Purposes of God. So this was a special and unique time. But here Jesus is telling them that this special time is fast coming to a close.

Now this welcoming by the larger Jewish society, and even on some occasions by some of the Gentiles, gave the disciples the impression that everything was going the right direction as far as their man-made eschatology was concerned. After all, the Messiah has come. And so these men thought that Jesus has come right then to set up the physical and literal Kingdom that was promised to Abraham and to David, and reiterated by all the OT Prophets.

So this is the hour of the *revealing* of the Messiah, Who had been identified by John the Baptist, and by an audible Voice out of Heaven, by the Holy Spirit coming upon Him and remaining, and by all the miracles, signs and wonders.

So, to them, everything is on schedule. And the embracing by the masses of the people simply adds to this sense of well-being that the disciples had. You see, their confused eschatology taught them to expect a *natural* Kingdom. And whenever *that* Kingdom came, these men fully expected to be in the most elevated positions in that Kingdom. And that's why they're arguing about which of them is going to be the greatest.

These men understand that the world typically operates in certain ways and so their assumption was that because of their great sacrifice in following Jesus, they're going to be rewarded with positions of great prominence in the Kingdom, places of honor, and places of exaltation and glory for themselves, just like the people in the pagan world operate. And *that's* why they're arguing about their status. And according to **Luke 19:11**, they were expecting this natural and physical Kingdom to come immediately. I mean with all of this popularity at the hands of all these people, it looked like surely the Kingdom of Israel's glory is now upon them.

But, during His Ministry, Jesus began to relentlessly but gently and radically *alter* their understanding of Last Things by telling them that the Kingdom was *not* a natural and physical Kingdom anyway. And that in one sense, the Kingdom had already come in Him, but that the *fullness* of the Kingdom would *not* be seen immediately.



And so, in **Luke 20**, Jesus told them a Parable about a man who went on a long journey and came back after a long absence to illustrate the fact that He was going away and His absence would be a long one.

But they were still having a hard time grasping all this because it was so different from everything they had been taught. And even *after* Jesus died and was raised from the dead and was about to ascend into Heaven, these men still didn't understand, and so, in **The Acts 1:16**, they asked Jesus:

**... Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?**

.. to which He replied,

“That is none of your business.”

So, they're really stuck on this real bad eschatology that they had learned from the religious leaders of that day, who weren't even saved. And so, their understanding of how all of history was going to wind down was:

- ✓ The Messiah comes one time.
- ✓ The pagan occupiers are militarily defeated.
- ✓ The Kingdom of ethnic Israel as it was under King David is restored.
- ✓ Jesus rules the world from Jerusalem.

And so, everything they think about Jesus and themselves is all wrapped up in this real bad eschatology of a physical and natural Jewish Kingdom, rather than a spiritual one.

Now, you have to understand that at this point these men have never experienced any serious persecution. That apart from a few verbal assaults and the beheading of John the Baptist, these men had personally escaped serious persecution. Now Jesus Himself had been repeatedly attacked by the religious hypocrites, but the men who followed Jesus were spared any persecution, and Jesus had personally provided for them and protected them. And so, basically, they were all well received. While there was an occasional person who didn't want

them in their home, for the most part, people threw their homes open and cared for these men. And that's why Jesus says in verse 35:

**When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?**

In other words, *“Up till now, you haven't needed anything to protect yourself. You haven't needed any clothing extra. You haven't needed any food. You haven't needed any money because the general population has welcomed you as they welcomed Me.”* But now the immutable Jesus is making a change, and even though this is how it has been for over three years, this is *not* how it's going to be for a real long time.

Now, at this point, these men fully expected that Jesus would lead them right into the Kingdom, and so they would *never* experience any persecution. But even later that very night, Jesus would be arrested. And the shock of that arrest would send these men scattering. It was a terrible jolt.

And Jesus' arrest on that night, and His subsequent torture and murder, would launch the deadly hostility that exists to this very day, where the enemies of Jesus Christ would first kill Him and then begin to persecute and kill His followers. And so Jesus is instituting the great mystery of suffering here that would describe Christian Ministry from that day to this, and that became the mantra of the early Church that was summarized in **The Acts 14:22:**

**Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.**

So even though there had been plenty of indications that this intense persecution was *coming*, these men had never seen it yet. And so Jesus tells them:

**When I sent you out without money belt and bag and sandals, you did not lack anything, did you?**

And they said:

**“No, nothing.”**

So, all their needs had been met. They were completely supported, sovereignly and supernaturally. There was no persecution. But Jesus is telling them that there is going to be a radical shift in the way that lost people relate to those carrying the Gospel once Jesus is gone back to Heaven, and this unique era of relative peace is over now. Now look at the first words of verse 36:

### **But now...**

So here is the transition. *"But now.... "You're not going to enjoy this peace in the future. You're not going to find a welcoming world of unbelievers. You're not going to find people in Israel or in the Gentile world throwing open their doors to invite you in to preach Christ to them. The nation has now rejected Me, and having rejected Me, they will reject you because you belong to Me. They reject Me, you preach Me, they reject you."*

Now this has got to be a terrible shock. Everything will change once Jesus has been arrested. And so, Jesus says:

### **Luke 22:36a**

#### **But now, whoever has a money belt is to take it along, likewise also a bag...**

Once the nation of Israel has formally and officially rejected Jesus and killed Him, the whole world would soon follow. And in the future, missionaries and other witnesses of Jesus Christ will experience a very hostile world. And that is the way it is to this day. The Kingdom of God spreads around the world through the blood of the martyrs.

Jesus is speaking *metaphorically* here. He isn't contradicting what He told them back in **Luke 9-10**, He is simply indicating to these men that things were changing because He was going to die and rise from the dead and leave this earth for a long time. He is reminding them that, contrary to what they had been taught, the Messiah has two "comings", one in meekness and lowliness to die for the sins of the world, and His Second Coming in Power and Glory to rule the world as King and Lord.

And so, in essence, the Lord is saying, *"The lost world is no longer going to take care of you preaching the Gospel. Unbelievers are not going to support Gospel preaching because unbelievers are the enemies*

*of the Gospel and the enemies of Christ. So, from now, until I come back, all during the Church Age that My death begins, you're going to have to raise support for yourself, basically from other believers. And so, if you have a money belt, take it with you,"* which refers to a place to carry your goods, your clothing, your food, or the support that you will need for Ministry. And then Jesus said:

**Luke 22:36b**

**... and whoever has no sword is to sell his coat and buy one.**

Now Jesus was not referring here to an offensive weapon that could be used to wage war, or something with which the followers of Christ can use to conquer the enemies of the Gospel, *physically or militarily*. This, again, is simply a metaphor for "protection".

So Jesus is telling His disciples that once He is arrested and killed, and once He rises from the dead and ascends into Heaven, things with His remaining Church are going to radically change. Instead of having adoring crowds, the ministers of the Gospel are now going to preach to a hostile world. Instead of thousands calling their name, men will labor faithfully for decades, alone and unheralded, in faraway places, to produce meager results as far as Man is concerned.

Now the Church Age began with one sermon and three thousand converts. But that is the rare exception. That mass of new believers was the sovereign Work of the Spirit to initialize the Church on the earth. But as the Gospel left the Jews and spread through the pagan world, the success of Christianity was slow and painful. Today, we don't study Peter's unique success at preaching on that balcony after they had been initially endued with Power from on High as the model for our own success. We study men like William Carey, who labored day in and day out in India for over fourteen years before he had his first convert. We study men who were eaten by cannibals and who were shot through with spears and who were overcome with disease and who suffered terrible discouragements and setbacks, all in order to obey Jesus and preach the Gospel to every creature.

And so Jesus tells these men they will be persecuted. And, O, how they will be persecuted! The men who stood around and heard Jesus speak these words on that day will be hated and maligned because of the Gospel. And that hatred will produce the "Trail of Blood" on which

the Church has been built. It is as though Jesus removed the hedge of protection that they had enjoyed the entire time that Jesus was in His earthly Ministry. And as soon as Jesus was removed, the intense hatred and persecution that only Jesus endured, was now directed to them.

Now there are many very good Biblical reasons why I reject the very popular notion that there are modern Apostles and Prophets on the earth today. And I have gone over many of them with you over this journey through **Luke**. But, the ones that stands out are those who lay claim to be Apostles, but have such easy lives, and that was simply not the case for these handpicked men who were the real Apostles. The level of persecution that these men endured is breathtaking, to the point, if God had not sovereignly empowered them, they simply wouldn't have survived. Listen to the account that the Apostle Paul gives from **2 Corinthians 11:22-33**:

**22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.**

**23 Are they servants of Christ? — I speak as if insane — I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.**

**24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine *lashes*.**

**25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.**

**26 *I have been* on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from *my* countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;**

**27 *I have been* in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.**

**28 Apart from *such* external things, there is the daily pressure on me *of* concern for all the churches.**

**29 Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?**

**30 If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness.**

**31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, He who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.**

**32 In Damascus the ethnarch under Aretas the king was guarding the city of the Damascenes in order to seize me,**

**33 and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and so escaped his hands.**

So, when you turn on the Hay, Wood, and Stubble television network and see these prancing prima-donnas with their adoring crowds and their body guards and their private jets and silk suits, these charlatans who have become millionaires off the backs of God's people, you need to remember Paul and Peter and James and the rest, and their *inglorious* lives and their horrific persecutions and deaths. And as you see these modern pied-pipers leading masses of people into deception, you need to remember the Apostle who was stoned to death and was caught up into the Third Heaven, and yet had to leave a city under threat of death as he was let down the wall in a basket.

Almost immediately after this very night, these men, these disciples, these Apostles began to experience persecution like very few before or since. And history tells us that they will be stoned to death and boiled in oil. They will be beheaded and crucified upside down. They will be beaten with rods and pierced through with arrows. And they will be gutted and flayed alive.

And today we have never known any different. 20 centuries after the Resurrection, and this Century has already proven to be the bloodiest on record. Even here in America where we have enjoyed relative peace and safety during this 230-year experiment with Democracy, and where we basically only get *verbal* persecution, sometimes it is overwhelming.

Just as soon as it seems that a faithful servant will enjoy some measure of success in Ministry, something happens to bring him back into obscurity. And that is not something unusual, it is now the norm.

And so Jesus says that from now on, those who follow Him are going to have to provide their *own* support, and their *own* supplies, and their *own* protection. He has promised to be with us, but the way that Jesus will provide for us has changed. And so, He tells these men, if you have a money belt, you need to take it. If you have a bag for your supplies, food and clothes, take it. And if you don't already have a sword, then sell your outer robe and get a sword because you're going into a hostile world.

Now it is important to understand that Jesus was *not* teaching here that the Gospel itself advances by the sword, like Islam. Over the centuries, over 90% of all converts to Islam are brought about by the edge of the sword. You convert or you die. To us, 9/11 was the beginning of our War on Terror. But to them, 9/11 was an evangelistic effort to win converts.

But history reveals that the Biblical Gospel has spread around the world through the spoken word, and *not* the sword. Our success spreads through Love, not violence. And souls are converted to Jesus through the foolishness of the word preached.

So our Lord is using the sword here *figuratively*. And we know that for three reasons:

1. The History of the Church.
2. Jesus' Rebuke of Peter in **Matthew 26**.
3. Jesus Statement to Pilate in **John 18**.

## 1. The History of the Church

Now the 2,000-year history of the Church contains some very terrible events and some very wicked people. The History of the Church is about like the people who are part of it, it is stained with sin. But the overwhelming majority of people throughout the entire history of the Church have been people who loved and forgave and displayed great kindness, even under horrific conditions. And the progress of Christianity has been measured through amazing acts of Mercy and the Preaching of the Gospel, and *not* by military might. And so, in here, in the Church, "might" does not make "right". In here, Truth reigns supreme, and King Jesus has the preeminence.

There is no record anywhere in **the Book of the Acts** where these men retaliated with force or used a weapon of any kind, even when they were persecuted the most.

## 2. Jesus' Rebuke of Peter

In **Matthew 26**, when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus, Peter took his sword and tried to cut off the head of the servant of the High Priest. And Jesus said this in verses 52-54:

**Matthew 26:52b-54**

**52 ... Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword.**

**53 "Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"**

**54 "How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, *which say* that it must happen this way?"**

### 3. Jesus' Statement to Pilate

And when Jesus stood before Pilate- the Lord said this in **John 18:36:**

**My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.**

... so clearly this is just *figurative*. Now look at **Luke 22:37:**

**For I tell you that this which is written must be fulfilled in Me, 'AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH TRANSGRESSORS'; for that which refers to Me has *its* fulfillment.**

Now the word "for" here means "because". So this indicates purpose or the reason behind *why* Jesus said these things. So the reason why Jesus told them to take a money belt and but a sword was because...

**... I tell you that this which is written must be fulfilled in Me, 'AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH TRANSGRESSORS'; for that which refers to Me has *its* fulfillment.**

Now Jesus is quoting from **Isaiah 53:12** here that was written over 500 years before Jesus was born. So, all this hatred, all this animosity, all this hostility, and all this slaughter, all this persecution, starting with Christ Himself and going through all the Apostles and then down through the history of the Church, all of this is connected to the fulfillment of Scripture.



And this gives us yet another indication of God's absolute Sovereignty. 500 years before Jesus is even born, God moves upon Isaiah to write down the Promise that when Messiah comes, He will be maligned and rejected and will suffer and die. So, it isn't that God simply knew about what the future would hold. No, God told you what the future would hold and then he went out and made that come to pass!

Now this verse is very important because Jesus says it twice. He emphasizes that this Old Testament Prophecy that was given as the Prophet Isaiah was moved long by God the Holy Spirit is fulfilled in *Himself*. So Jesus is the fulfillment of this Prophecy. And you know who knows this? Orthodox rabbis know this. And, to this day, the rabbis will shy away from **Isaiah 53** because it is so obvious that it refers to Jesus. In fact, this Chapter is called "The Torture Chamber of Rabbis".

Now many theologians say that this verse has to do with Jesus being crucified between two thieves, so that Jesus is "numbered with the transgressors" in the sense that He was crucified between two sinners. But that isn't what this means at all.

This is referring to Jesus' propitiation. It refers to the fact that all of our sins were imputed to Jesus, and so as the Wrath of God was poured out upon Jesus, our sins were judged, but we were left free to be saved. And this is what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote:

## **2 Corinthians 5:21**

**He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

So Jesus was placed in the category of a transgressor by God, and then punished by God, so we might be saved.

Now I want you to turn to **John 15:18-21** for a moment.

**18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you.**

**19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.**

**20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.**

**21 "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.**

Now the word "world" here refers to those who are the enemies of God who belonged to the kingdom of darkness. Jesus is promising here that from the time He leaves the earth, the persecution that He Himself endured while He was here would be *transferred* to those who follow Him and who preach His Word. And in **John 16:1-4**- Jesus said this:

**1 "These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling.**

**2 "They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.**

**3 "These things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me.**

**4 "But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.**

This shows that things are going to quickly change for these men. And so, Jesus says, *"I don't want you to stumble when the persecution comes. I don't want you to trip up over this because you didn't expect it. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue. An hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. And these things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me, but these things I have spoken to you that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning because I was with you."*

And then Jesus said, *"I didn't need to tell you this at the beginning because I was there to protect you and to shield you. But now you need to know. I'm leaving and this is what you're going to face."*

So, even though God is immutable, the way He works *in* us and *through* us, and the way that God works in the earth *does* periodically change. And this event is one of those changes. And so, Jesus is faithful to prepare these men for this great persecution.

Okay, but do these men get it? Do they understand what Jesus is saying? Well, no. Look again at **Luke 22:38**:

**They said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough."**

Now there's a certain exasperation in these words, like Jesus was saying, "*You guys just never really get it, do you?*" But the answer is that two swords are all they're going to need, because their future protection and the success of their Ministry doesn't depend on human force.

Now why is that? All of the other religions in the history of the world have been dependent on human force, why not Christianity? Well, first of all, Jesus *Himself* is going to abide with these men. But then another amazing thing is going to happen. Jesus promises that God the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, will come to them and abide inside them, and lead them into all Truth. Look at this Promise from **John 14**:

**John 14:16-18;25-26**

**16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;**

**17 *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.**

**18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**

**25 "These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you.**

**26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**

Now, we must remember that before Jesus came to John to be baptized, God the Holy Spirit did not dwell inside people like He does today. God the Spirit periodically fell, but then He lifted again. He came on occasion, but He didn't stay. He moved upon people, but He didn't abide with them.

And that was one of the signs that God had given to John so he would know who the Messiah was:

### **John 1:33**

**I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'**

But now Jesus promises these men that God the Holy Spirit will be sent to them to guide them and lead them and empower them, and to cause them to remember everything that Jesus taught them. And while this is much different than anything these men had ever experienced, it isn't worse than how they had it when Jesus was here Personally. In fact, in many ways-, it is even better. Look at the Promise that Jesus gave these men from **John 14:12-15**:

**12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I go to the Father.**

**13 "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

**14 "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do *it*.**

**15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.**

Now many within the Word of Faith heresy teach that believers will do greater things than Jesus did, in the sense of being greater in *importance*. So the thought that we can do more important things that even Jesus Himself feeds into their already elevated sense of pride and self-righteousness, but that is *not* what Jesus meant here.

The word "greater" here does not refer to importance, but to scope. And so, the Church on the earth has been called to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. The scope of our ministry is wider and longer and involves more peoples than Jesus' Ministry. He was called to go to Israel prove His Deity, live a sinless Life, and die for the sins of the world, and then rise again. We are called to take that single Message and spread it around the world. We are called to do it in His Name and for His Glory, under great persecutions, hard circumstances, and many setbacks.

And so, in this Passage, this glorious immutable Christ institutes a major shift in the way that His followers would minister on the earth,

and we are blessed to faithfully carry that torch forward in our day so that when He returns he will find us faithful, fruitful, and busy in the Work of the Lord.

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729 [www.covenantofpeace.net](http://www.covenantofpeace.net)

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.