

Sovereignty and Human Accountability

Mark 14:12-21

Series: Christ our Focus

1. Introduction:

- a. There are many questions surrounding the topic of God's sovereignty as it is juxtaposed with human accountability.
 - i. There is a camp that extols human accountability above all else.
 - ii. There is also a camp that extols sovereignty to the point in which they limit the accountability of man.
 - iii. Today we will see and affirm the truth that:
 1. Above everything else, God is sovereign over everything in all creation.
 2. Even though is ultimately sovereign over everything, man is responsible for the choices that he makes.

2. Verses 12-14 – Passover

- a. The description of the Passover preparation is strongly reminiscent of the preparations for the entry into Jerusalem
 - i. In both passages Jesus sends two disciples on covert errands that must be completed if events are to proceed.
 - ii. Both errands entail mysterious meetings, and both transpire exactly as Jesus predicts.
 - iii. Both demonstrate that the hour that was coming was completely within the sovereignty of God.
 1. Jesus is not a tragic hero caught in events beyond his control.
 2. No desperation, fear, anger, or futility on His part.
 3. He displays a sovereign freedom and authority to follow a course he has freely chosen, in accordance with God's plan.
 - iv. The cross of Christ is a choice made in love and not an accident.
- b. Verse 12 – the Passover feast is Jesus Christ. He is the lamb, the sacrifice. Because of His blood, we are passed over.
- c. Verse 13 – A male water carrier would have caught their eye, for carrying water was normally the labor of women and slaves.
- d. Verse 14-16 – The room for his Passover.

3. Verses 17-31
 - a. A Markian Sandwich
 - i. A¹ – Betrayal of disciples – Verses 17-21
 - ii. B – Last Supper – Verses 22-26
 - iii. A² – Defection of Disciples – Verses 27-31
 - b. The “B” part provides the key to understanding the whole. Christ’s self-sacrifice is compared with the disciple’s betrayal.
 - i. Jesus lays down his life not for the worthy but for the unworthy.
 1. **Romans 5:8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

4. Verse 17 – Christ enters Passover with his family.
 - a. **Mark 3:33-35** And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" (34) And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! (35) For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

5. Verses 18-20 – Sovereignty displayed
 - a. The feast which speaks of victory begins with an announcement of treachery/betrayal.
 - b. One of you will betray me –
 - i. This statement does not limit the field to all present, all eating.
 1. Each disciple must go through agonizing soul-searching. Could they be the traitor? Have they been betraying Christ?
 - c. Verse 19 – Is it I?
 - i. Sorrowful – surely it is not me
 - ii. We experience joy when we follow but ultimate sorrow when we fail.
 1. **Mark 14:72** And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.
 - d. Verse 20 – Shocking – it is one of his immediate followers. One of the twelve called directly by him.
 - i. There is only one formal traitor but by dawn all the disciples will betray Jesus from:
 1. Greed
 2. Weakness
 3. Cowardice

6. Verse 21 –

- a. The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him
 - i. This betrayal was foreordained and part of God's sovereign plan in the redemption of man.
 - 1. **Luke 22:42** saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."
 - 2. **Acts 2:22-23** "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know-- (23) this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.
 - 3. **Acts 3:18** But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.
 - 4. **Acts 4:27-28** for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, (28) to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.
 - b. But woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!
 - i. Divine providence neither cancels human freedom nor relieves responsibility for moral choices.
 - c. It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."
 - i. **Mark 3:28-29** "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, (29) but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—
 - ii. **Mark 8:34-37** And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (35) For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. (36) For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? (37) For what can a man give in return for his soul?"