From Gethsemane to Golgotha

by Bill Crews

Christian, how familiar are you with the sufferings of our Lord from the time He entered into the garden of Gethsemane until death released Him from the suffering at Golgotha? While you partake of the supper of the Lord, do your thoughts have a sizable amount of Biblical information upon which to draw for suitable meditation? Allowing the Scriptures themselves to tell the story, let us outline some of HIs sufferings:

In the garden of Gethsemane where He went with His apostles and then prayed alone three times: *"And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and sore troubled. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: abide ye here, and watch with me. And he went forward a little, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass away from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt"* (Matt. 26:37-39). Jesus prayed after this fashion three times, while each time his disciples fell asleep! *"And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and His sweat became as it were great drops of blood failing down upon the ground"* (Lk. 22:44). Remember how cold it was that night (Jn. 18: 18). *"So the band and the chief captain, and the officers of the Jews, seized Jesus and bound Him, and led him to Annas first"* (Jn. 18:12-13).

Before Annas, the ex-high priest: *"For he was father-in-law to Caiphas, who was high priest that year." "And when he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so? Jesus answered him, If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me? Annas therefore sent him bound unto Caiphas the high priest"* (Jn. 18:13, 22-24).

Before Caiphas, the current high priest: Here false witnesses were paraded before Jesus to offer what was hoped would be incriminating testimony against Him. When that didn't work, Caiphas placed Him under oath and asked Him a question. When Jesus answered truthfully, He was falsely charged with blasphemy and sentenced to death. *"Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be worthy of death. And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophesy: and the officers received him with blows of their hands"* (Mk. 14:64-65). *'"And the men that held Jesus mocked him, and beat him. And they blindfolded him, and asked him, saying, Prophesy: who is he that struck thee? And many other things spake they against him, reviling him"* Lk. 22:63-65.

Before Herod Antipas, ruler of Galilee and Perea: When the governor, Pilate, learned that Jesus came from Galilee, he sent Him away to Herod, who was then in Jerusalem. Herod was no doubt irritated when Jesus would neither answer his questions nor satisfy his desire to see Him perform a miracle. *"And the chief priests and the scribes stood, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers set him at nought, and mocked him, and arraying him in gorgeous apparel sent him back to Pilate"* (Lk. 23:10-11).

Before Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea: The Jewish leaders who were bitter enemies of Jesus, hating Him and envious of Him, wanted two things of Pilate: (1) permission for His execution and (2) execution by crucifIxion, which would have to be carried out by Roman soldiers. Pilate immediately knew that Jesus did not deserve to die at all and weakly resorted to several futile ploys to release Him. In his cowardly weakness and fear he gave in. *"Then released he unto them Barabbas; but Jesus he scourged (look it up -**BC**) and delivered to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium, and gathered unto him the whole band. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And they platted a crown of thorns and put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand; and they kneeled down before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spat upon him, and took the reed and smote him on the head.*

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