

Garden to Garden - Part 2

FAQ - The Most Backward Day in History

Q: What makes the events surrounding Jesus's arrest and crucifixion described as the "most backward day in history"?

A: The events are considered "backwards" because they represent a complete reversal of what is expected or logical from a human perspective. The innocent are arrested, the righteous are condemned, and love is met with hatred. The King of the Universe is crowned with thorns and ultimately sacrificed for those who are wicked. The greatest defeat was in reality the greatest victory! This is all counter to human wisdom and expectations.

Q: How did the sermon contrast the self-sacrifice of Jesus with other forms of self-sacrifice?

A: Humans are familiar with self-sacrifice (soldiers dying for their country, parents sacrificing for children, etc.). Those other forms of self-sacrifice usually occur for those deemed worthy or for a cause that is believed to be just. Jesus, however, willingly sacrificed Himself for the ungodly, the wicked, and sinners.

Q: What is the significance of Judas' betrayal of Jesus with a kiss?

A: Judas' betrayal is considered particularly sickening because he uses a gesture of love and affection (a kiss) to identify Jesus to those who would arrest Him. The kiss, typically a sign of loyalty and deep affection, is perverted into a tool of treachery. This highlights the depths of Judas' betrayal and the influence of Satan. Judas appears to be loyal to Jesus, but he was not. The gesture of affection is used to mask an act of treachery.

Q: How do we understand the plan of God in relation to the wicked actions of those who betrayed and crucified Jesus?

A: While individuals like Judas, the disciples, Caiaphas, and Pilate were responsible for their actions, these events also occurred according to God's "definite plan and foreknowledge." This highlights the tension between human free will and God's sovereignty. If the cross was all done by the cunning, deceitful, and wicked planning of sinners then all the cross does is magnify



how deeply depraved man truly is. But if the cross is the plan of God, then it magnifies how wide and how high and how deep the love of God is.

Q: What is the meaning behind Peter's act of cutting off the servant's ear in the Garden of Gethsemane?

A: Peter's impulsive action is a senseless impulse because it was an attempt to solve the problem in his own strength, rather than trusting in God's plan. Peter is acting out in the flesh. He is trying to solve problems in his own strength. Peter is outnumbered by a multitude. The sword is symbolic for a worldly solution. Jesus rebukes him, stating that those who live by the sword will die by the sword. This shows the contrast between human action and the divine plan.

Q: Why is Jesus' arrest considered "strange"?

A: Jesus' arrest is strange because it seems unwarranted. He had been teaching openly in the temple, and there was no clear justification for sending a large armed crowd to arrest Him as if He were a dangerous criminal. This highlights the injustice and irrationality of the events leading to His crucifixion.

Q: What is the "sad fulfillment" described in the sermon regarding the disciples?

A: The "sad fulfillment" refers to the disciples' abandonment of Jesus after promising to stand by Him. They fled out of fear and weakness. This demonstrates their lack of spiritual strength and their reliance on the flesh, rather than the Spirit. They boasted too loudly. They prayed too little. They slept too much. They acted too impulsively. And the result is that they had no strength, no courage, no conviction, no power.

Q: How does the crucifixion solve the "unsolvable problem"?

A: The text proposes that the crucifixion solves the seemingly "unsolvable problem" of how God can be both loving and just. By sacrificing Jesus, God demonstrates His love for sinners while also satisfying His justice by paying the penalty for sin. Through the cross, justice is upheld and mercy and grace are provided.

