

"the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about Jesus"

THE DAILY JESUS NEWS

An ATJ Ministries Publication by John Wright

The DAILY JESUS NEWS #285 Thursday... Day of Instruction and Arrest: The Last Supper

Jesus Declares That Isaiah 53 Was Written About Himself Luke 22.35-38

=====

35 Then Jesus asked them, *"When I sent you out without wallet, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?"*

"Nothing," they answered.

36 He said to them, *"But now if you have a wallet, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one."*

37 *"It stands written: 'AND HE WAS NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS' (Isaiah 53.12); and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what stands written about me is reaching its fulfillment."*

38 The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords."

"That's enough!" he replied.

=====

NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	An Upper Room in Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	D. Thursday: Day of Instruction and Arrest
	The Last Supper
Title	Jesus Declares That Isaiah 53 Was Written About Himself

COMMENT:

Today's brief reading reveals two important, major truths. The Passover supper was in its final stages. Judas has departed to betray Jesus. Jesus had informed the apostles that they will all abandon him that night, and Peter will deny Jesus three times before morning. The tension in the room is rising.

Jesus reminded the apostles that when he sent them out, two by two, in Galilee and again in Judea and Perea, he commanded them to take nothing with them for supplies on the journey. They were to rely upon his provisions for them. As they did so, they lacked nothing. God faithfully provides the resources for doing his will, when it is done his way.

Now he told them they would need to provide for themselves, and use their own resources. Why was that? What had changed? This time he was not sending them out to serve him. They were going to run away at top speed when they abandoned him later that night. This meant that they were no longer going to experience his resources. They were taking off independently of him, and so they would need to rely upon their own resources--a sure plan for failure, and disaster. But, it was their choice, and this was one of the consequences.

Even so, Jesus will pray for them in a few hours, and ask his Father to protect them during the period in which he will be apart from them. Just as he prayed already for Peter's faith not to fail him, Jesus prayed for all his disciples to be kept from giving up their faith in the coming three days apart from him. They were going rogue, but Jesus was still covering and protecting them by faith as they abandoned him. What unconditional love, and boundless, rich grace!

The other major truth of this text is also bedrock truth. Jesus identified himself as the Lamb of God that Isaiah prophesied in Chapter 53.

John the Baptist had proclaimed this (JN 1.29). The apostle John declared it (JN 12.37-38). Phillip, in his conversation with the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8.32-35) would testify that Isaiah was talking about Jesus in Ch. 53. There are other New Testament references that tell us the same thing. However, here we have Jesus himself making a direct, explicit reference to himself as the fulfillment of Isaiah 53. We are certain that every other witness to this truth is correct, because this interpretation came from Jesus himself.

This is so important. Many skeptics and radical New Testament scholars say that Jesus was really no different from other 1st century Rabbis. He was just a man like them.

However, no Rabbi in the history of Judaism has interpreted the Old Testament Messianic texts as referring to himself. No other Rabbi taught that Isaiah 53 in particular is about himself. No Rabbi has taught their blood can cleanse all sin, and that they have the authority to forgive sin.

All this is unique to Jesus. It is so unique that there is no way that any of the disciples thought this all up and attributed it to Jesus. These ideas could have only come from Jesus himself.

Jesus brought a radical new interpretation to the Old Testament Scriptures when he claimed that they were all about HIM! This is one of several major claims of Jesus to this effect. Jesus is no ordinary man. Only someone who is convinced of his own identity as YHWH, and equality with his Father as God can make claims like this one.

This text reminds us that Jesus is awesome in his unconditional love, because he IS an awesome God. Jesus is THE God of the universe, to be more accurate.

APPLICATION:

When we do not pursue God's will we are limited to living in our own strength, instead of his. Conversely, when we seek obedience to God's will no matter what the cost, HIS own power supernaturally enables us to obey, because his resources work in us.

In what way are you relying on yourself, rather than God? How is that working for you? Where do you need to refocus your obedience, to return to life in God's power?

"I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me" describes us when we are seeking to live within the bounds of his will alone. What about you?