



The Gospel of Matthew

Fulfillment & Failure

Matthew 26:47-56, 69-75



The Garden Scene

“In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, *and He was heard because of His piety.*”

– Hebrews 5:7



The Garden Scene

Jesus’ prayer in the garden...

- displayed the unimaginable horror of the cross
- revealed the divine necessity of the cross
- was a means of enduring the shame of the cross

Matthew 26:47-56

And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up, accompanied by a great multitude with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, “Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one; seize Him.”

And immediately he went to Jesus and said, “Hail Rabbi!” and kissed Him.

And Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you have come for.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword.

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?

How then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen this way?”

At that time Jesus said to the multitude, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as against a robber? Every day I used to sit in the temple teaching and you did not seize Me.

But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left Him and fled.

(Matthew 26:47-56)



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Jesus’ Submission

- He willingly allowed these things to happen that the Scriptures might be “fulfilled”



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Jesus' Submission

- He endured the traitor's kiss
- He refused to allow any physical resistance
- He refused to use His divine privilege or power to avoid suffering



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Disciples' Failure

"...then all the disciples left Him and fled..."

...but Peter also was following Him at a distance as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and entered in, and sat down with the officers to see the outcome."

Matthew 26:69-75

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a certain servant-girl came to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean."

But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about."

And when he had gone out to the gateway, another servant-girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

And again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man."

And a little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; for the way you talk gives you away."

Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know the man!"
And immediately a cock crowed.

And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, "Before a cock crows, you will deny Me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

(Matthew 26:69-75)



Fulfillment & Failure

Peter's Denial

1. The nature of Peter's failure

- it was from weakness not wickedness – an overwhelming "fear of man"
- it resulted from carelessly positioning himself in the place of temptation



Fulfillment & Failure

Peter's Denial

2. The fruit of Peter's repentance

- his fall was necessary to show the self-confident disciple his own weakness
- Jesus' aim in Peter's fall was for the spiritual benefit of others (c.f. Luke 22:31)