

THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE-DOWN?

'Am I leading a rebellion,' said Jesus, 'that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.' Then everyone deserted him and fled. (Mark 14:48-50)

REVERSAL – MANKIND IS IN REBELLION

- Who is rebelling? (v48)
- Call to leave everything to follow – man leaves everything to desert (v51-52)
- Sanhedrin seeking testimony against Jesus – the guilty try the innocent
- Who is blaspheming? Who is worthy of death? (v64)
- Thinking that distance from Jesus will save us (v66-71)
- The Jews – light to the Gentiles – degrade their Messiah and Saviour before Pilate
- The murderer goes free (15v9-11)

FULFILMENT – GOD IS IN CONTROL

- This could leave us wringing our hands and saying “how terrible” – partly warranted
 - But we mustn't lose sight of the fact that God is in control.

"Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen." Acts 4:27-28

- Quotes Psalm 2 – God is not threatened. This is not “they won the battle, God will win the war.” This is all in the plan.
 - I have installed my King
 - I will give you the nations!
 - So kiss the Son – not as Judas did, but in humility!
- Aside – Acts 4 – response to seeing the rebellion of humanity around us is not to wring our hands, but to pray that God would **make us bold**.
- Zechariah 11,13 – defective leadership replaced with a true shepherd, who is then rejected.
 - Paid 30 pieces of silver (price of a gored slave in the Law)
 - “Thrown to the potter”
 - I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered (on that day a fountain will be opened)
- Jesus – one of you will betray me, you will all leave me, before the cock crows twice

- When Jesus is on trial:
 - There is no sin in Jesus; there are no skeletons in his cupboard
 - BUT – people object to his deity and his right to require things of us
 - It is Jesus’s status that causes offence – then and now. He is not a prophet, not a “good teacher”, but the Christ, the “Son of the Blessed One”, the “Son of Man sitting at God’s right hand and coming on the clouds.”
- Everyone leaves Jesus and flees. Jesus stands alone – and in all the events that follow, he is tried, suffers and dies alone.
- Twice in Isaiah, God looks and is appalled that there is nobody who cares about justice, nobody who is fit to act, so “his own arm works salvation”.
- Jesus saves, and Jesus alone.
 - Others teach God’s words, are filled with the Holy Spirit, and have revelations and spiritual experiences. Others perform works of power – but only Jesus carries the sin of the world on his shoulders to the cross.
 - Another prophecy – Isaiah 53:

*He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.*

*By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.*

*Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.*

*After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.*