

**Just Like Jesus:  
Just Like Jesus in Disappointment  
Matthew 26:47-56**

**March 14, 2010**

**Dr. Steve Horn**

**Text Introduction:** We are in a series entitled *Just Like Jesus*. The idea is that in certain specific events in the last week of Jesus' life we might learn to live like Him in similar episodes of our lives. Last week, we examined the topic of living like Jesus in our difficult circumstances. Today, our topic is to live like Jesus even through what might sometimes be real disappointing moments in our lives. To do so, we look at the scene immediately following the Garden of Gethsemane.

**Text:** <sup>47</sup> While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, suddenly arrived. A large mob, with swords and clubs, was with him from the chief priests and elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> His betrayer had given them a sign: "The One I kiss, He's the One; arrest Him!" <sup>49</sup> So he went right up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!"—and kissed Him.

<sup>50</sup> "Friend," Jesus asked him, "why have you come?"

Then they came up, took hold of Jesus, and arrested Him. <sup>51</sup> At that moment one of those with Jesus reached out his hand and drew his sword. He struck the high priest's slave and cut off his ear.

<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Put your sword back in place because all who take up a sword will perish by a sword. <sup>53</sup> Or do you think that I cannot call on My Father, and He will provide Me at once with more than 12 legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> How, then, would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?"

<sup>55</sup> At that time Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs, as if I were a criminal, to capture Me? Every day I used to sit, teaching in the temple complex, and you didn't arrest Me. <sup>56</sup> But all this has happened so that the prophetic Scriptures would be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted Him and ran away.

**Introduction:** Sir Alexander Mackenzie is a Canadian hero. An early fur trader and explorer, he sought to find that elusive Northwest passageway through Canada to the Pacific Ocean. In 1789, his crew followed a river (now called the MacKenzie River) in hopes of it flowing into the Pacific. It flowed into an ocean alright, but instead of the Pacific Ocean, it was the Arctic Ocean. I have read that Mackenzie called the river the "River of Disappointment." (From Our Daily Bread, July 1, 1990, via Bible.org illustrations. Details confirmed on various web sources.)

The only reason I tell you that story is because of the interesting title: "River of Disappointment." Been there? Broken marriage? Financial collapse? Problems with children? Disease? Someone's untimely death? Somebody you trusted lied about you? All of this and so much more can lead to our own "rivers of disappointment."

## Circumstances that Could Have Disappointed Jesus

Was Jesus even disappointed? Perhaps, that is an important question to answer here at the outset. Hebrews 2:17-18 tells us of that possibility. <sup>17</sup> Therefore He had to be like His brothers in every way, so that He could become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> For since He Himself was tested and has suffered, He is able to help those who are tested.

Whether it is right to say that Jesus was disappointed or not, I will be reserved, but He could have been disappointed by any of several actions in our text.

1. Disappointed in Garden—Unwillingness of the disciples to pray with Him.
2. Disappointed in Judas' betrayal
3. Disappointed in Peter and the use of the sword—Illustrates the disciples inability to grasp the basic concepts of the kingdom.
4. Disappointment in disciples—Eventually all of the disciples abandon Him.
5. Disappointment in Peter—Denial after promise to remain—broken promise.

These examples illustrate how our disappointments are with people and circumstances! Disappointment in life is probably inevitable. We have disappointments at work, at school, and yes, even at church. We have disappointments with those we know, those we don't know. We have disappointments with close friends. And yes, if we are honest, we have disappointments at times with God. Phillip Yancey wrote an entire book *Disappointment with God*.

## Careful Observations (What Jesus did not do and what Jesus did)

1. Never feels pity for Himself. He actually meets the disappointment head on.
2. Does not point the finger.
3. Does not take personal revenge. In fact, He called Judas "friend."
4. Does continue to trust in the power of God to intervene.
5. Does continue to trust in the purpose of God for His life.

## Conclusions

This text seems to beg several different questions.

1. Have you disappointed someone? Ask for forgiveness.
2. Has someone disappointed you? Be like Jesus.
3. Have you disappointed God? Ask for forgiveness.
4. Has God disappointed you? Romans 10:11—

<sup>11</sup> Now the Scripture says, No one who believes on Him will be put to shame. (NASB says "disappointed.")

Jennifer Rothschild, a blind woman, who speaks at women's conferences said, "One of the hardest lessons I've had to learn is that God uses painful circumstances in our lives for good. My hero, Joni Eareckson Tada, who has been in a wheelchair since she was a teenager, makes this point well when she

says that God allows what he hates in order to accomplish what he loves.” (From article by Jennifer Rotschild, who is blind, in *Decision* magazine.)

Ultimately what do we do with our disappointment? I think we do in part what Sir Alexander Mackenzie did with his disappointment. Four years after his expedition led him down the River of Disappointment to find the wrong ocean, he did find that elusive passageway across Canada to the Pacific Ocean.