

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM JUNE 2, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Mark 14:48-50

And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me, as you would against a robber? Every day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me; but this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures." And they all left Him and fled.



Mark's version of the arrest of our Lord conveys a grim realism. A large mob deputized by the temple rulers converges on the garden of Gethsemane armed with swords and clubs as if Jesus were some terrorist bandit. But Jesus had been teaching in their temple all week long with nothing to hide and no revolution planned. Ironically, Jesus chastised the rulers of the temple for turning His Father's house of prayer into a den of thieves and robbers. Now temple goons, lead by Judas, arrest Him after His prayer as if He were a robber.

This mob does not understand the Scriptures nor has no idea they are involved in the fulfillment of Bible prophecy and the promise of Jesus to the disciples in **John 18:9** "*Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one.*" The temple leaders on hand to supervise the arrest foolishly thought they were so clever in accomplishing their purposes with their plots and hired mercenaries to ensure the arrest of the rabbi from Galilee. But Jesus knew in all of this the plans of God were being fulfilled – plans which did not require swords and clubs. God's power is manifest in weakness. Jesus has extended God's mercy and forgiveness to sinners and now He is led off to be killed by sinners.

Peter previously told Jesus the disciples had left family and jobs, forsaking all things that they might follow Him. But now, their desire to save their lives causes them to flee into the night. At a time when all hope appears to be lost, Mark reminds us that God's will is being fulfilled. What is taking place – the betrayal, the arrest and the desertion of the eleven – is all a fulfillment of the Scripture. And despite the darkness of the garden this night, Jesus has promised to be reunited with them in Galilee after His resurrection.

Are you in the darkness of the garden this morning? Maybe you stand with the religious leaders thinking how clever you are as if you were in control of your own plans and destiny. Or maybe you are waking with the disciples, overwhelmed and afraid at what stands around, looking to run. Each of these is vanity; a false thinking that you have outwitted God with your schemes or outrun His grace by your failure. The Lord is still sovereign in all things, and for those who plan against the Lord, He sits in the heavens and laughs (**Psalm 2:4**), but for those who have come to Him for mercy and grace, He has promised to never leave you nor forsake you (**Hebrews 13:6**). Truly, what can man do to you?

Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

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SEE YOU SUNDAY AT SUNRISE

June 2013

Hear Sunday Sermons again at www.SunriseTC.org



Fanny Crosby (1820-1915)

Hymn of the Week Blesséd Assurance

Hebrews 10:21-22

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/b//e/blesseda.htm>

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1873:

Music: Assurance, Phoebe P. Knapp

Blesséd assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long;*

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior, all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,

Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;

Angels descending bring from above

Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,

Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Refrain



Phoebe P. Knapp (1839-1908)

- June 2 8:45 a.m. Mark 14:43-52 Pastor Andrew Kikkert
Jesus Arrested, Followers Barely Escape
- 10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- June 4 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in Ephesians
- June 7 7:00 p.m. Game Night
- June 9 8:45 a.m. 1 Cor. 14:33 – Elder Thom Rachford
God is not the author of confusion
- 10:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- June 11 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in Ephesians
- June 14 6:30 p.m. Friday Night Fellowship
- June 16 8:45 a.m. Father's Day – Pastor Andrew Kikkert
No Sunday School- Celebrate Dad!
- June 18 7:00 p.m. Bible Study in Ephesians
- June 21 7:00 p.m. Game Night
- June 23 8:45 a.m. Elder Ken McAuley
- June 30 8:45 a.m. Mark 14:53-72 – Pastor Andrew Kikkert
Mission Impossible

JUNE 2013						
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The Cost of Discipleship –

Arab Spring Egypt's 'Legal' Persecution of Christians

By **RAYMOND IBRAHIM** AT WWW.PERSECUTION.ORG

Post "Arab Spring" Egypt continues exposing its true nature, including now legal persecution of Christians. Earlier this month, according to Fox News, Dimyana Abdel-Nour a "pale, young Christian woman sat handcuffed in the courtroom, accused of insulting Islam while teaching history of religions to fourth-graders." Her accusers are 10-year-old Muslim children who say she "showed disgust when she spoke of Islam in class."

According to Islamic law, the word of inferior Christians cannot stand against that of superior Muslims—even if they are resentful or confused children. Released on bail, Dimyana is unable to talk and—"suffering a nervous breakdown."

The report continues:

Criminalizing blasphemy was enshrined in the country's Islamist-backed constitution that was adopted in December. Writers, activists and even a famous television comedian have been accused of blasphemy since then. But Christians seem to be the favorite target of Islamist prosecutors. Their fragile cases — the main basis of the case against

Abdel-Nour's case the testimony of children'— are greeted with sympathy from courtroom judges with their own religious bias or who fear the wrath of Islamists, according to activists. The result is a growing number of Egyptians, including many Christians, who have been convicted and sent to prison for blasphemy.... Part of the Salafis' antagonism toward Christians is rooted in the belief that they were a protected group under Mubarak's regime while they, the Salafis, were persecuted. Now empowered, they may be out to exact revenge on the Christians....

Indeed, before Hosni Mubarak was deposed with the aid of the U.S. in the name of "freedom" and "democracy," Christians were at least legally protected: Muslim mobs were limited to lawless attacks on Christian churches and persons. But now that the Muslim Brotherhood and Salafis are in charge, Egypt's Christians are now also experiencing legal persecution in the courtrooms, especially in the context of blasphemy.

Raymond Ibrahim is author of Crucified Again: Exposing Islam's New War on Christians. A Middle East and Islam expert, he is a Shillman Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center and associate fellow at the Middle East Forum.