

25th - Henry and Pam Lind

The Story Chapter 26– The Hour of Trial

Knowing that His time had come, Jesus spent His last few hours with His disciples. The Passover was approaching so they prepared a customary feast. But this was no ordinary Passover meal; Jesus was about to change history. At His “last supper,” He taught the disciples a significant lesson by washing their feet. He even washed Judas’ feet, although He knew Judas would betray Him. Then Jesus took the unleavened bread and cup of wine from the Passover meal and instituted the New Covenant, the Covenant that Jeremiah and Ezekiel had promised centuries ago. Aware of His God-ordained destiny, Jesus clarified His relationship to the Father so that His disciples might understand what lay ahead. He promised them that an advocate, the Spirit, would come and help after His own departure. After a lengthy prayer to the Father for His glorification, Jesus led this rag-tag group through the night to the Garden of Gethsemane.

What Peter lacked in judgment, he made up for in zeal. Peter pledged to even die with his Lord rather than abandon Him. But Jesus knew that He would go through His ordeal alone. He told Peter that he would disown Him three times before dawn. Jesus’ anguish for what was to come drove Him to agonizing prayer. Peter and his companions quickly exchanged fidelity for forty winks while Jesus prayed, searching to see if there was any way to avoid what was awaiting Him. He answered His own prayer when He acknowledged that He would do God’s will and not His own. Then Jesus’ betrayer and conspirators arrived to arrest Him. They escorted Him to Caiaphas’ kangaroo court. No one could find legitimate charges against Jesus until He affirmed His identity—Messiah, the Son of God. The Sanhedrin charged Him with blasphemy and sentenced Him to death. The religious henchmen beat and belittled their legitimate King. Watching from a safe

distance, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times before the rooster crowed. Stunned and ashamed, he left in bitter humiliation. Judas, in a sudden moment of remorse, returned the blood money and opted for a rope.

Meanwhile, Pilate was stuck between a rock and a hard place. The Jews wanted Jesus crucified, and he wanted Caesar’s sustained support. What’s a governor of a no-name, backwater region of Rome to do? Interrogating Jesus himself, he found no legitimate charge to pin on this man. Yet the pressure was escalating from the crowd as they threatened to turn him in to Caesar as a rebel sympathizer. Pilate’s thug soldiers clothed, beat, and crowned Jesus with contempt before they marched Him to the cross.

Crucifixion was an exceptionally cruel way to die. The public execution drew hordes of scornful onlookers. Their jeers challenged Jesus to save Himself. They failed to grasp that Jesus was there to save them. One of the two criminals crucified with Jesus, however, got the picture. His faith secured his place in paradise. Even the creation itself testified to the enormity of this event. As sin overcame Jesus, darkness eclipsed the whole land. For the first time in eternity, Jesus was forsaken by His Father.

“It is finished,” He proclaimed. At that very moment, the temple curtain was torn, an earthquake split rocks and tombs were opened. It was finished. What could compel the Son of God to endure such torture? Finishing. Finishing the work that the Father sent Him to do. The debt of all sinners was put on Jesus, who alone could pay it in full. God is holy, loving, and just. His love compels Him to pursue His people, but His holiness requires justice for sin. The mob of mockers witnessed a Lower Story drama. A few faithful disciples witnessed a Lower Story injustice. But God witnessed the Upper Story culmination of a plan prepared before the foundation of the world. It was no surprise. It was justice. And it was finished.



Prayers

- The Heights– Covid-19 is effecting many residents.
- Lauren Babb– Upcoming procedures options for heath and pain.
- Shirley Kuchenka– Family and upcoming memorial service of Dawn Clarke.
- Wanda Fryer– Recovering from Surgery
- Sherlyn Clack– Had a Seizure and is recovering.

*Long Term Prayer List can be located on the Bulletin Board in the foyer.

By the Numbers

LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE
Sunday Morning—24
Sunday Bible Class—18

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION
LAST WEEK
Offering: \$835
Special: \$

Announcements

A Graveside Memorial Service for Dawn Clarke will take place on August 24th at 2:45pm. Attendance is limited due to COVID-19, please let Charlie know if you plan or want to attend.

On August 29th, at Gonzales Church of Christ a Service will be held with Meal to follow.

PATHWAY PREP

News & Events

We have started up classes again and are excited to grow and learn with you!

Gonzales ISD Students scheduled to start school August 24th!

Shiner ISD Students are started school August 19th and kicked off a great year!

Weekly Events

TUESDAY MORNING

All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at **6:20 a.m.** for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellow-



IF YOU HAVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS OR PRAYER REQUESTS YOU WISH TO HAVE INCLUDED IN THE BULLETIN, PLEASE CONTACT: **PAIGE MILLS AT (806)454-0742 OR paige@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org**