

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: Israel

TITLE: Program 10 – No Ordinary Death – The Crucifixion What Was It Like?

FRIDAY

OPEN

We've seen so many people die as we've watched television, as we've watched the movies, that it seems as if we've become inoculated to death and to what a person endures when they die. When we hear that "...God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son...."(John 3:16a) we think, "Big deal. Jesus died. Others have died also." And when we say that, or we think that, we really don't understand the agony that Jesus went through to prove God's love to you. I'm sitting in the house of Caiaphas, where Jesus was betrayed, where He was scourged, where He was despised and rejected of men. And I want to share with you, Beloved, how much God loves you, so much that He gave His Son for you.

PART ONE

[“After Jesus Christ was betrayed by Judas, one of the twelve apostles, in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Roman cohort came to arrest Jesus, to take Him

away to the house of the high priest.”](PARAPHRASE Matthew 26:47) I’m sitting in the house of the high priest. I’m sitting in the dungeon where they would keep the prisoners under arrest. You see, when the Romans took over a country, they allowed them to be ruled by their own people. And so there was a group of seventy, called the Sanhedrin, that ruled over Jerusalem. The Romans allowed them to execute the laws. The only thing the Romans would not allow them to do was execute their people. That had to be done by the Romans. But they could arrest them. They could try them. They could sentence them. They could beat them. And I’m in the chamber where on the night in which Jesus was betrayed, He was beaten. I want to tell you about what happened in this place, because I want you to understand the depth and the breadth and the height of the love of God. We won’t be able to plumb that height. We won’t be able to plumb the depth. We won’t be able to touch the expanse of the breadth of that love. But I want to try. I want to begin. And I want you to see how much God loved you and how much you’re loved by Jesus Christ even while you’re a sinner, even while you turn your back on Him. I want to take you to the Gospel of John, to the 18th chapter. And I want to pick up there and explain from the several different gospels what happened in this place. In John, chapter 18, verse 12, it says, “So the Roman cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, and [they] led Him to Annas first; for he was [the] father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.”(John 18:12-13) Before Jesus ever came down into this dungeon there were some other things that took place according to the laws of the Jews and the laws of the Sanhedrin. This was night of illegal trial. The Jews who were so religious about keeping the letter of the law, found it convenient to break it that night. Because you see these religious leaders hated the One who was the Messiah. They were blind. They didn’t know that this was the Son of God, that they had bound and brought to the house of Annas and then to the house of Caiaphas. Listen to what happens. It says, “The high priest [therefore]...,”

and speaking of Annas, "...questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. [And] Jesus answered... [and said], 'I have spoken openly [in] the world; I always taught in the synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. Why do you question me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; [behold] they know what I said.' [And] When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby [gave Him a blow]..."(John 18:19-22a) They crumpled their fists and they hit Omnipotence in the face. They reached out and they struck the Son of the God. They delivered a blow to the Lamb of God who was about to take away their sins. In their insolence, this is what they said. He said, "... 'Is that the way You answer the high priest?'"(18:22b) How blind that man was! Because the One that was standing before him was a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. This was not a high priest after the order of Aaron, not from the tribe of Levi, but this was a priest after the order of Melchizedek, a priest who would abide forever, a priest who was also the Lamb of God, who would offer Himself as a sacrifice in order to pay for their sins. Because the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin, Jesus says, ["A body, Thou has prepared for Me, lo in the volume of the Book it is written, 'I come to do Thy will, O God.'"] (Can not find reference) He slapped Him in the face and he said, "... 'Is that the way you answer the high priest?' [And] Jesus answered... 'If I have spoken wrongly, [bear witness of Me]; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?'"(18:22b-23) Could Jesus speak wrongly? No. Because Jesus is absolute veracity. John says, that Jesus said, ["That He is the way and He is the truth..."] (PARAPHRASE John 14:6b) No lie could ever come from His lips. "...Annas [therefore] sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest."(John 18:24) And that's where we are. We're in the house of Caiaphas. And as you read and see what happened on that night, you're going to be amazed at what they did to this Man who was the God man, God incarnate. I want to take you back to Matthew, chapter 26. And in Matthew,

chapter 26, it says, "...[Now they] led [Jesus] away to...the high priest, [and all] the [chief priests] and the elders and [the scribes] gathered together." (Matthew 26:57) Then you have a record of the denial of Peter. But I'm going to skip that for right now because that was happening in the courtyard. And as we come back we see that they began to give false witness against Jesus. "...the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain...testimony against Jesus [to]...put Him to death. [And they were not finding any.]" (26:59-60a) They couldn't find anyone that could legitimately say that Jesus Christ deserved to die. They wanted Him put away. They did not want Him to live. He was an impediment to their religion. I want to ask you a question: Has Jesus Christ ever become an impediment to your religion, to the way that you worship God? It says, ["Many were giving false testimony against Him. And yet their testimony was not consistent. And some stood up and began to give false testimony against Him saying, 'We have heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands and in three days I will make another built without hands.' And not even in this respect was their testimony consistent. And the high priest stood up and came forward and questioned Jesus saying, 'Do You make no answer? What is it that these men are testifying against you?' but He kept silent and made no answer. Again, the high priest as questioning Him and saying to Him, Are You the Christ, he Son of the Blessed One?' and Jesus said, 'I am and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming with clouds of heaven.' And tearing his clothes, the high priest said, 'What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard this blaspheme. How does it seem to you?' And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death. And some began to spit at Him and to blindfold Him and to beat Him with their fists and to say to Him, 'Prophecy'. And the officers received Him with slaps on His face."] (PARAPHRASE Matthew 26:60-67) Catch the moment. Catch the scene. Catch what is happening to Jesus Christ. Here they are, putting a blindfold over the eyes of Omniscience. Here they are slapping His

face. Here they are, spitting in His face. Here they're saying to Him, "You're a prophet, prophesy! Who was it that just spit in Your face? Who was it that just delivered a blow to You?" That was a night of torment. That was a night, an evening of torture. That was a night when God was proven how much He loves you. For this was the Son of God in whom He was well pleased and He was well pleased because He was a Son who was going to be obedient unto death, even death on a cross for you, my friend. I'll be right back because I want you to see and get a fuller picture of what happened so that you might know how much He loves you, that this was no ordinary death.

PART TWO

You know it was quite a night for Jesus. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He had been in such agony that He sweat great drops of blood. Now He's here in the house of Caiaphas. Here He's being tormented. Here He's being beaten. Here He's being mocked. Listen again to what Luke says in his gospel. In Luke (it's actually Luke & Mark), it says, ["Then they spat in His face...and they beat Him with their fists, and others slapped Him. They said, 'Prophesy O, Christ, Who is the one that hit You?'"](MIX of Mark 14:65 & Luke 22:63-64) And of course, as you know, we saw in Mark that they had blindfolded Him. But Isaiah gives us even a greater insight into what happened this night in the house of Caiaphas. I want to take you to Isaiah, chapter 50, verse 6 and I want you to listen carefully to this verse. It says, "I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting." (Isaiah 50:6) You have to know that it was so humiliating for the Son of God to stand there and be beaten by His own creation, to have them spit in His face, to have them blindfold Him and think that He didn't know. Do you realize that He could have called ten legions of angels to stop the whole thing? What restrained Him. What kept Him from hitting back? What kept Him

from saying, “Stop!”? What kept Him from slapping their hands as they pulled out His beard? It was restrained Precious One, by love for you, by love for me, by love for mankind, by love for us when we were helpless, when we were hopeless, when we were sinners, when we were enemies of God. Jesus Christ was in the process of dying for you and for me. I want to take you to another gospel. And I want you to listen carefully. And it says, “[And] the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking Him and beating Him, and they blindfolded Him and [they] were asking...’Prophecy, who is [it] who hit You?’ And [when] they were saying many other things against Him, [and] blaspheming.”(Luke 22:63-64) They beat Him. What does it mean that they beat Him? Do you realize that the Jews, under the Romans, were allowed to beat someone up to thirty nine stripes? No more, the man would count them. And how did they beat Jesus Christ? They would suspend a rope and tie up the arms of the victim. They would put a rope and catch the victim, his legs; this is the way that they would beat him. If they were allowed to give him thirty nine stripes, I’m sure that night when it says, “That they beat Him...” that they let their vengeance out on Jesus Christ. Can you imagine flogging the One who loved you so much that He was willing to die for you? That’s what happened that night. I’m sure blood was drawn. And when it was, they would take a stick with a sponge on it and they would dip it into the basin, then they would take the vinegar and they would put it on the back of their victim. And what did they do when they finished with Jesus Christ? It wasn’t the end. There’s a song that talks about spending the night in the pit where they confined the Son of God, the Lamb of God, who would take away your sins and my sins. Can you imagine what it was like to put a rope around the arms of Omnipotence and to lower Him into a pit? They were lowering Jesus, the light of the world into a pit of abject darkness. Why? Because men prefer darkness rather than light. They prefer darkness because they think darkness covers their evil deeds. And Jesus says that they would not come to Him because they didn’t want their

deeds to be seen as they really were. But those that God is drawing to Him, it's almost like a moth going toward the light, going toward the flame, Jesus, the light of the world. They thought that they could extinguish that light. As a matter of fact, God wanted them to understand how much they preferred darkness rather than light. And so you find darkness covering the face of the earth for about three hours as Jesus hangs on the cross. They think they've extinguished the light of the world. They take Him from the cross. They bury Him. They think He's dead. But He rises from the dead. You cannot extinguish the light of life. Do you know where Jesus spent the night? He spent the night down there in that pit. Let's go down into the pit for just a few minutes and see what it was like. This could be the pit where Jesus spent the night before He was taken to Pilate, tried and then crucified. It's interesting because Psalm 88 talks about going down into the pit. Listen to what it says. "O Lord, the God of my salvation, I have cried out by day and in the night before [Thee]. Let my prayer come before [Thee], incline [Thine] ear to my cry! For my soul has had enough troubles, and my life [is] drawn near to Sheol, [to the grave to death]. I am reckoned among those who go down [in]to the pit; I have become like a man without strength, forsaken among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom [Thou dost] remember no more, and they are cut off from [Thy] hand. [Thou hast] put me in the lowest pit, in dark places, in the depths. [Thy] wrath has rested upon me." (Psalm 88:1-7a) God was about to pour out His wrath upon His Son, because "...the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23a) "The soul that sinneth, it shall surely die." (Ezekiel 18:4b, KJV) Jesus was without sin, but God was going to take your sins, Beloved, and my sins and He was going to put them upon Jesus and Jesus, who knew no sin, was going to be made sin for you and for me so that you and I might have His righteousness.