### Jesus failed, or He meant something else

### The journey has taken us to Jesus’ final 24 hrs. before the cross.

### In our text we will see “Truth” put on trial.

### And Jesus, lose an election that cost him His life.

### But not before he suffered severe physical and emotional pain;

### Peter’s denial - Peter denied the Lord three times before the rooster crowed, just like Jesus predicted.

* **Gethsemane –** Jesus prayed in agony, sweating drops of blood as he asked the father “"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

### Jesus Arrested – Judas betrayed him in the garden and handed him over to the Chief Priests

### Jesus Before the Sanhedrin – He was falsely accused of blasphemy, beaten and condemned to death.

* **Jesus before Pilate:**

**John 18:28-40**

**28**Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. **29**So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

**30**“If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.”

**31**Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

“But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. **32**This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

**33**Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

**34**“Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

**35**“Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

**36**Jesus said, “*My kingdom is not of this world*. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

**37**“You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

**38**“What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. **39**But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?”

**40**They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!”

Pilate knew that Jesus was on trial for false charges. He said so himself.

But instead of using his Roman authority to declare him as innocent and release him,

he looked for a way out by bringing it to the people, *to vote* on the fate of this falsely accused man.

He allowed the crowd to *cast their vote* and make the decision regarding the sentencing of Jesus.

 **Mark 15:12-15**

**12**“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. **13**“Crucify him!” they shouted. **14**“Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

Why? He asked. (I’m sure he was quite surprised.)

All he knew about Jesus was that he was extremely popular with these same crowds.

They apparently loved him. Less than a week ago they were shouting Hosanna, and welcoming Him into Jerusalem as “the Messiah”.

WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT CHANGED?

It was apparent that Jesus turned out to not be *the King they had hoped* for. He even said to Pilate; ***“My kingdom is not of this world.”***

The crowds realized that His Kingdom was certainly **not** of this world.

He did not match their perception of whom the Messiah would be.

He came into town last week amidst shouts of *“Behold, your King is coming to you!”*

But ever since he’s been in Jerusalem, he has not done anything “Kingly”.

He did not disband the Sanhedrin, take-over the throne of Herod and kick out the Romans. Instead he’s been getting beat up, mocked, ridiculed and put to shame by them all.

The crowd felt, disappointed, cheated and deceived. They thought he would be *“the one”* that would free them from the oppression and tyranny of the Priests, Herod and the Romans and fulfill all of their worldly aspirations, but instead he appeared to be yet another “imposter Messiah”. They were mad, and as soon as they were given the opportunity to cast judgement on Him, they shouted Crucify Him!

QUESTION:
Why did they think He’d be an earthly king and powerful leader?

What did he *say* or *do* that made them expect that “His Kingdom WOULD be of this world”, and that his authority would be evident in *Political power, social revolution and economic reform?*

Some of the answers are in their understanding of whom and what the Messiah would be, based on *their* Hebrew scriptures,

others are based on what they interpreted *Jesus’ own words* to mean for them;

3 MESSIANIC SCRIPTURES (OT):

***Daniel 7:14*** *“*He was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.”

**Jer 3:17** **“**At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the Lord, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the Lord.”

**Isa 9:6-7** “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
**7**Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.
He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom,

THIS is the King that they were expecting.

To be fair, it *did not seem* like Jesus had fulfilled any of these prophesies by the time he was standing before Pilate and the people; beaten, bruised, mocked and humiliated in the praetorium. He did not seem much like the Messiah they had in mind…

***So****, Jesus either failed on His mission,* ***OR he meant something else.***

***Jesus failed, OR He meant something else***

Jesus himself claimed to be the fulfillment of the long-awaited Messiah from the very beginning at the time He read the scroll of Isa. 61 in his hometown synagogue in Nazareth;

**Luke 4:16-21**

**16**He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17**and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

 *“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,, because he has anointed me
    to proclaim* ***good news to the poor****.*

*He has sent me to proclaim* ***freedom for the prisoners*** *and recovery of* ***sight for the blind,*** *to set the* ***oppressed free,***

    to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

**20**Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. **21**He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is *fulfilled*in your hearing.”

What was He promising here?

* to proclaim good news to the poor.
* to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
* recovery of sight for the blind,
* to set the oppressed free

This was *great news* to them, because they needed help with ALL of the above.

Upon hearing this, it would’ve been natural to believe that Jesus ministry on the earth would be marked by a significant amount of the following;

* *“to proclaim good news to the poor”*

seemed to mean - significant financial help to poor cities and communities throughout Israel.

* *“to proclaim freedom for the prisoners”*

seemed to mean - Release of many prisoners from the Roman jails throughout the empire.

* *“to set the oppressed free”*

seemed to mean - slaves being set free from their chains and bondage all over the empire, and an end to the Roman oppression of the Jews.

* *“recovery of sight fr the blind”* *o*

seemed to mean many people would be healed from blindness wherever he went. (The Bible only mentions 4 or 5 healed from blindness, although there were many other healings and miracles).

Jesus *may have done all of these things* and more, but it is not in the Bible.

John 21:25 does say that there are many more things that Jesus did, than that which is written.

As far as we know however, even though he taught at great lengths about love, mercy, compassion, and justice, His earthly ministry was *not* marked with a significant amount of; *prison reform*, *financial assistance to poor cities communities*, *abolition of slavery* (which was prevalent in His day) or *freedom from the horrific Roman oppression* that they were all living under.

He did not seem focused on these things, Neither did the early church that came after Him.

(He *did* however do quite a bit of healing, miracles, fulfilling prophesies and teaching)

You could see why some of those who were looking for *tangible relief* for the poor, oppressed and imprisoned might have doubted Him three years later when they did not see it happening.

Even His own cousin, John the Baptist, seemed to doubt him at one point.

In fact, very shortly after Jesus announced that he came to “*proclaim freedom from the prisoners”,* and *“to set the oppressed free”*, John the Baptist was oppressed and put in prison by Herod near the Dead Sea. When Jesus heard about it, not only did He not come South to help him get released, he went the entirely other direction and moved up North to Galilee and did nothing about it.

It’s easy to see why John might have been tempted to think that,

*Jesus either failed on His mission,* ***OR he meant something else.***

**Luke 7:18-22** **“**John’s disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, **19**he sent them to the Lord to ask, *“Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”*

**20**When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’”

**21**At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and *gave sight to many who were blind*. **22**So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the *good news is proclaimed to the poor.”*

We imagine that John was comforted by this message because it clearly indicated to him that Jesus *was* the Messiah, but it did not mean physical freedom from prison and oppression for John.

In fact, he remained in prison for nearly two years before he was decapitated at the request of Herodias, but not before Jesus paid him the greatest compliment anyone can ever receive;

 *“I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John;*

**How about us?**

Are we ever tempted to say to the Lord?

“*Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”*

Do we ever place expectations on Him that if He *does not* fulfill our aspirations of what *we want Him to do*, or *how we think things should be*, then we doubt him?

At some time or another, we are all tempted to do this.

* When the election does not go our way,
* When our prayers are not answered according to the time and results that we hoped for.
* When it seems like *evil prospers*, and *goodness is suppressed* in the world.

If He is the *King of Kings* and *Lord of Lords*, how could so much evil exist in the world?

If His job is to f*ulfill all of our expectations* of *who He should be* as “King of the World”, then *He failed*, OR He intends something else.

Let me tell you: JESUS NEVER FAILS!

It’s very important that we don’t project OUR “personal understanding” of what the Kingdom of God should be, especially when Jesus tells us otherwise.

**Luke 17:20-21** Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because *the kingdom of God is within you*.”

*(NLT) “The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs.*

In my lifetime I *have* witnessed the kingdom of God on earth, just like it is in heaven.

**But** Just like Jesus said, it was not by “observation or visible signs”, like *political power*, *material blessing* or *economic reform*.

It’s been happening all along in our lifetime in other, more significant ways;

**We have all witnessed: *“good news to the poor”***

**James 2:5** “Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

**We’ve all witnessed: *“freedom for the slaves, prisoners and oppressed”***

**Gal. 4:4,7** “God sent his Son, …to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, **7**Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child!

**We’ve all witnessed; *“recovery of sight for the blind”***

**2 Cor 4:4,18** **“**The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ,

But, we fix our eyes *not* on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

(we were all set free from blindness)

There will be a day, when *Jesus returns* and sets up His kingdom here on earth. Then all of our hopes and expectations of the Kingdom will be fulfilled  *on earth just as it is in heaven*.

**Rev. 11:15** “The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

But what about *now*? Are his promises true for *today*?

**Yes!** I believe that Jesus DID fulfill the prophecies of Isaiah 61 during His time on earth, and He continues to fulfill them even today.

If those who doubted Him truly knew *what it actually said* and *what it meant* they would’ve been able to enjoy all of the blessings and freedoms that were fulfilled in their hearing;

*Let’s not make the same mistake*. Even, while we wait in joyful hope for our Coming King to establish His kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven, we can enjoy the fulfillment of his promises in our hearts and minds and lives.

Those promises of Isaiah 61 are ours regardless of the fact that we live in tough times when the days are evil;

Let’s read them again, as they were originally written, and thank the Lord for each of those that are already true in your life, and pray for those that are yet to be…

**Isaiah 61:1-3**

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me
    to *proclaim good news to the poor*.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
    to *proclaim freedom for the captives*
    and *release from darkness for the prisoners*,
**2**to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God,
to *comfort all who mourn*,**3**and *provide for those who grieve* in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of *beauty instead of ashes*,
the *oil of joy, instead of mourning*,
and *a garment of praise, instead of a spirit of despair*.

*Jesus did all of that then, AND He is doing it now.*

In these times we need to trust Him, and Have Faith that He is God, and can do all things in our lives His timing.

In the meantime, let’s have peace, and be of good cheer.

Nothing happens unless He makes it happen, or lets it happen.

All Authority has been given to Him, and He has overcome the world.

**Closing verse:**

**John 16:33 “**These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”