

Mark 11:27-33 – Passion Week: Death Trap 圈套, 陷阱

Broadus, TSK, Gill, Robertson, Geneva, GreekLexicon, Handfuls, Rienecker, JFB, Poole, Vincent, Barnes, Clarke, Henry, Brink, Trapp, INT,

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: There is quite a sappy (情意缠绵的) song from long ago called “No charge.” The song is about a young boy who went to his mother and **asked for payment** for all the things he had done, including mowing the grass, making his bed, and baby-sitting his sibling. The mother then recounted (重新数点) all she did for him, including carrying him for 9 months in the womb, and sitting up all night with him when he was sick, and she then told the boy that everything she did for him **was no-charge**. The young man became ashamed...and rightly so.

It is not too much different sometimes when you complain that you have the flu and need to get well, that you need a better job, that you have been single for too long, etc. You complain because you feel you deserve (配得) more. However, if you take the time to consider the suffering of the Lord Jesus on your behalf – all of his suffering, you will quickly stop whining (埋怨) and instead start working with more zeal for the Lord. This is what you will hear today.

Our headings are:

The Chief Priests (祭司长) Attempted to trap Jesus

Jesus Avoided falling into the chief priests' trap

Jesus Admonished (责备) the chief priests for their attempt to trap him

Our goals are: **That you will continue to see the suffering Jesus faced as he headed to the cross for sinners like you, and that in turn, he will become more attractive to you.**

The chief priests Attempted to trap Jesus

27 Then they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes (文士), and the elders came to Him. 28 And they said to Him, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority to do these things?"

1. Jesus voluntarily (自愿地) came up to Jerusalem to die for the sins of the elected ones.

He did so boldly.

He did so on his timing –when he had sufficiently taught his disciples to carry on the work he had trained them to do.

He then set his face like flint (坚石) and headed to the cross.

But before he came to the cross, he had a week of horrors. He had to suffer rejection of those closest to him, harassment 烦扰 from those who should have defended him, and he had to anticipate the physical pain that was coming.

2. Looking for an opportunity to destroy Jesus, the chief priest and the Scribes prepared a death trap for him.

The chief priests and Scribes had tried in the past to attack Jesus' doctrines (教义), but he had silenced them with his knowledge of the Word of God and in his clear and authoritative explanations.

3. So instead of going after Jesus' doctrines, they challenged Jesus' authority to do say and do what he had just done.

They questioned the source of his authority! **He had driven the corrupt (败坏的) people out of the temple**, overturned their tables, and threw away their money. He said that the temple was being corrupted and that the leaders and **the people there were a hindrance (阻碍) to the inclusion of the Gentiles (外邦人) into the kingdom.** And recently Jesus had done some remarkable miracles, including raising of the dead.

4. The chief priest and Scribes' death trap became evident.

Trap 1: If Jesus said he drove out the money changers from the temple from Roman authority, the chief priests knew they could turn the people against him for his closeness to Rome.

Trap 2: If Jesus said he did it by Divine神性的 authority, the chief priests would charge him with blasphemy褻瀆, accusing him of being wicked and presumptuous自以为是的 to assume authority not delegated to him. The chief priests and Scribes believed that the office of priest was so fixed that no other person, other than a Levite (利未人), could assume (承担) this office. They ignored Melchizedek who was there before Levi was a tribe, but who was not from Levi. So there was no conflict with Jesus being from the Tribe of Judah. What ignorance of the chief priests and historians! Also, the chief priests and historians assumed to themselves the power to determine who was a prophet or a priest or who was not.

With the trap set, they were probably sitting back with smirks得意的笑 on their faces, for they thought they had him! Wished they had read their Bible better!

Psalms 110:4 The LORD has sworn And will not relent后悔, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

Hebrews 7:21 (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him:

"The LORD has sworn And will not relent, 'You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek'"),

5. Lessons:

a. Sometimes the biggest danger to the church is from within. Some leaders can get so hooked on tradition or they could get so taken up with (采纳, 赞成) perpetuating (保持) the institution that they forget that they are called to love and serve and spread the message of the cross around the world. These can kill the church from within.

b. Ignorance (无知) of who Jesus really is, is no excuse before God. And this is **especially true for those who were born and raised in the covenant community.** But this also means that you have a responsibility to **make the introduction** between Jesus and your children and between Jesus and strangers.

Jesus avoided falling into the chief priests' trap

29 But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one question; then answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things:

1. Because Jesus knew that they were setting a death trap for him, for he knew the hearts of all men, Jesus avoided answering their trick question.

2. But Jesus did not want to directly refuse to answer the question, as that would seem to be dodging (回避) the question.

So instead Jesus offered to answer their question if they would answer his question first.

30 "The baptism (洗礼) of John — was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me."

3. What was that question? Jesus asked them if John's baptism was at the command of God or at the command of man.

And he demanded an answer. (John was commanded to baptize those who were converts (皈依者) from foreign lands (and Jews who were converted) in order to show that they were symbolically made clean. It was like the transition from the bloody circumcision 割礼 to water baptism.)

31 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 32 "But if we say, 'From men'" — they feared the people, for all counted John to have been a prophet indeed.

4. The chief priest and the Scribes knew that they were trapped by Jesus' question.

a. If they said that John's baptism was from God then Jesus would say, "Why didn't you believe and follow him." Furthermore, if John's baptism was from God, they should have followed Jesus, after all, John testified (见证) that Jesus was the Messiah for whom the world was waiting. John had directly pointed out Christ.

John 1:26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, **but there stands One among you** whom you do not know. 27 "It is He who, coming after me, **is preferred before me**, whose sandal strap (鞋带) I am not worthy to loose."

Even the prophets before John pointed directly to John being the Forerunner (先锋) of Jesus. Malachi 3:1 "Behold, **I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me**. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.

And Jesus confirmed that John was speaking of him.

Luke 7:27 "**This is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,** Who will prepare Your way before You.'

But the chief priest and the Scribes had rejected John...and therefore Jesus. And Herod rejected him because of what he said!

John 7:48 "**Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees (法利赛人) believed in Him?**

Luke 7:30 But the **Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves**, not having been baptized by him.

b. If the chief priest said that John's baptism was not from God, then they were afraid that the people would turn against them, as most people recognized John the Baptist as a prophet from God. Luke's said that the chief priest feared they could be stoned by the people. Even King Herod knew who John was and was afraid to kill him.

Matthew 14:5 And although he wanted to put him to death, **he feared the multitude**, because they counted him as a prophet (先知) .

c. What is clear is that no man directly appointed John the Baptist to his role of baptizer, but he was directly appointed by God, even when he was yet in his mother's womb.

5. Lessons:

a. Like the chief priests, there are wicked church leaders today who violate their own consciences (良知) for the sake of their own position and profit. Recently 4 pastors in Bethesda, Maryland, prayed for God's blessing for a late-term abortion facility and they called it a "holy space." Speaking of the people who would be doing the late term abortions, one of the pastors prayed: "And may they always know that all that they do is for Thy glory." Surely these fake (假的) pastors violated their own conscience when they prayed. Surely ripping apart (撕裂) grown children is not a God-glorifying act!

b. Learn that you don't always have to speak. Sometimes you have to expose the folly of the other person's argument. Sometimes you simply have to be quiet and not answer at all. Sometimes you simply have to ask appropriate questions.

c. What a waste of time (and a cause of frustration) this must have been for the Lord...with so many things to do!

Jesus Admonished the Chief Priests for their attempt to trap him

33 So they answered and said to Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus answered and said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

1. The chief priest and Scribes then refused to answer, lying to Jesus and saying that they didn't know if John were legitimately 合法地 baptizing believers.

They knew! But hatred of Christ and love for their own profit caused these men – the priests of God Most High, to lie against their own conscience. They tried to dig a death trap to kill Jesus, but they found themselves in their own trap. Can you imagine how this must have hurt the Lord to see the leaders of his own people so wicked?

2. Jesus then admonished the chief priest and the scribes for attempting to trap him.

He did this by refusing to answer their question. He had exposed their hearts. They would have left him with guilty consciences.

3. Lessons:

a. In our passage the chief priests wanted to control the people by not agitating 鼓动 them to keep the cash coming in. (Of course in this situation the people were doing right.) In our situation today you find that ministers sometimes refuse to confront the sin in the lives of people. Keeping the members in the church, and keeping them tithing 什一奉献 seems to be the most important thing! **Some things never change.**

b. These men were fighting for victory; they were not fighting for truth. So they got neither.

c. What torture this must have been for the Lord as he watched his shepherds act! What hypocrites 假冒伪善者!

Conclusion:

The Lord must have shed many tears in Passion Week 受难周. His own priests and church historians, who should have known better, used their position to **set a death trap for him.** He had so much on his mind, but he could not even suffer in peace. Thankfully, **the Lord avoided the death trap that was set.** He then **admonished the chief priest for their attempts to trap and kill him.** And he headed on toward the cross.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Any other man would have packed up and returned home instead of going to the cross to die for the sins of those who made him suffer in body and in spirit. But not the Lord! He set his face determinedly 坚定地 to go to the cross. Love drove him.

2. If this doesn't make you love the Lord more, nothing else will. But I know you will love the Lord more.

3. In turn, love and serve him better. Say: "Lord, what do you want me to do?" That is the very least you could do. Invite someone to church. Tell someone about Jesus. Teach your children. Worship regularly. Feed on God's Word so that you will grow in grace.

Finally: Jesus is the only way to God. He spoke the only truth about that only way. Unless you go to him and learn – learn that the way to God is by **receiving by faith what Jesus did on the cross to please God,** you will die in your sins and spend eternity in hell. May you ask God to lead you to the cross so that you will see Jesus dying for sinners such as you!