

# Jesus' Last Days

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Matthew 26: 31.



“Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:  
‘I will strike the Shepherd,  
And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’  
Matthew 26: 31.



# I. Introduction: Stumbling

Jesus announced in advance: the disciples will stumble because of Him. In fact, Christian life is to always make choices regarding Jesus. Staying with Him and surrendering everything else is the culmination of any disciple's experience.



“On-and-off salvation never appears in the Bible. Salvation is not a repeated phenomenon. Scripture contains no example of a person who was saved, then lost, then resaved, then lost again... Trust God’s hold on you more than your hold on God... “All of you will stumble,” Jesus told them. Fall away. Turn away. Run away. Their promises would melt like wax on a summer sidewalk. Jesus’ promise, however, would stay firm. “But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee” (Mat 26:32). Translation? Your fall will be great, but my grace will be greater. Stumble, I will catch you. Scatter, I will gather you. Turn from me, I will turn toward you. You will find me waiting for you in Galilee.”

Max Lucado , Grace: More Than We Deserve, Better Than We Imagine, Thomas Nelson, 2012, p. 133-5.



“Sometimes it takes a good fall  
to really know where you stand”  
Hayley Williams



"What makes authentic disciples is not visions, ecstasies, biblical mastery of chapter and verse, or spectacular success in the ministry, but a capacity for faithfulness. Buffeted by the fickle winds of failure, battered by their own unruly emotions, and bruised by rejection and ridicule, authentic disciples may have stumbled and frequently fallen, endured lapses and relapses, gotten handcuffed to the fleshpots and wandered into a far county. Yet, they kept coming back to Jesus."

*Author: Brennan Manning*



“Observation itself teaches us that many stumble at Christ. No sooner was God manifest in the flesh, than mortals began to stumble at Him.”  
Charles Spurgeon



“Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble; it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.”  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer





“This is the true knowledge of Christ, with which He knows us and we are known by Him. High and glorious wisdom! But for the reason and thought of the world it is far too deeply buried and hidden. It is comprehended by faith alone, which must here undergo a great conflict in order to keep this knowledge and to increase in it, lest by the great occasion for stumbling which appears here it be drawn away from Christ; as he Himself admonishes in Matthew 11:6: “Blessed is he, whosoever shall find no occasion of stumbling in me.”

Martin Luther

"A new commandment give I unto you, that you love one another." You say then, that you love Christ: keep His commandment, and love your brother. But if you love not your brother, how can you be said to love Him whose commandment you despise? Brethren, I am never satiated in speaking of charity in the name of the Lord. In what proportion ye have an insatiable desire of this thing, in that proportion we hope the thing itself is growing in you, and casting out fear, that so there may remain that chaste fear which is for ever permanent. Let us endure the world, endure tribulations, endure the stumbling-blocks of temptations. Let us not depart from the way; let us hold the unity of the Church, hold Christ, hold charity. Let us not be plucked away from the members of His Spouse, not be plucked away from faith, that we may glory in His coming: and we shall securely abide in Him, now by faith, then by sight, of whom we have so great earnest, even the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Augustine

## II. Context





The center of our text underlines the preparation of Jesus for the time of His Passion and suffering. Also, it reminds us of human weakness in front of the assaults of evil. The disciples had hard time to commit themselves to prayer. Jesus is emphasizing the essential role of prayer for the victory during the temptation.





# The Betrayal of Jesus

## Matthew 26: 31 – 56. Structure

A	31a	Stumbling of Disciples
B	31b - 32	Fulfillment of the Scriptures
C	33 - 35	Peter doesn't accept the prediction of Jesus about His arrest
D.	36 - 46	Time of Prayer before the Betrayal
		a. Disciples and Prayer (36 – 38)
		b. Jesus Praying His Father (39)
		a'. Disciples and Prayer (40 – 41)
		b'. Jesus Praying His Father (42)
		a''. Disciples and Prayer (43)
		b''. Jesus' Entry to Jerusalem. The Multitude Cries Out Hosanna to the Son of David
		a'''. Jesus' Entry to Jerusalem. The Multitude Cries Out Hosanna to the Son of David
D'	47 - 50	Time of Betrayal
C'	51 - 54	A Disciple (Peter) doesn't accept the betrayal of Jesus
B'	55 – 56a	Fulfillment of the Scriptures
A'.	56b	Stumbling of Disciples

III. We have in front of us challenging times. God didn't promise facility and easiness. However He promised His presence and the power of the Holy Spirit, granting us victory.





# 1. Stumbling because of Jesus

"All of you will be  
made to stumble  
because of Me this  
night"



“He is the Shepherd who was to lay down his life for the sheep. If a Sacrifice, he must be slain, for without shedding of the life-blood there was no remission... Smite the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. This passage our Lord Jesus declares was fulfilled, when all his disciples, in the night wherein he was betrayed, forsook him and fled. It has, and shall have its accomplishment, in the destruction of the corrupt and hypocritical part of the professed church. And if we are his people, we shall be refined as gold; he will be God, and the end of all our trials and sufferings will be praise, and honour, and glory, at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Matthew Henry



"When the shepherd is stricken the sheep are scattered, decimated even, till only a remnant, a third part, is left. It's a passage Jesus Himself quotes in Matthew 26:31 when He predicted to His disciples His arrest and crucifixion. "You will all fall away because of Me this night," He told them, and then He quotes Zechariah 13 and verse 7. "I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered." Even Peter, remember Peter protesting nothing like that would ever happen to him. Even Peter would deny his Master three times. In the wake of the cross the sheep are scattered and this initial scattering comes in fear and shame and disillusionment and betrayal even. And later after the resurrection of Christ and the disciples are restored, the hostility of the world that was first turned against the Shepherd is now turned against the sheep, even escalating in its scope and ferocity as they are once more scattered."

David Strain

"And they all forsook him, and fled," (Mark 14:50). This is the scattering of the sheep. Jesus did understand what was to happen that night in the Garden of Gethsemane.

He is still thinking of himself as the shepherd when he says these words to the disciples, "But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Remember in John 10, where Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep," (John 10:11). He says of this shepherd, "When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them," (John 10:4a). He is reassuring his disciples that after the dark event of Calvary, there will come the glory of the resurrection. He will go before them as the shepherd, still guarding his flock, still watching over them, and he will meet them again in Galilee."

Ray C. Stedman

2. Jesus was not  
well received  
during His ministry  
“I will strike the  
Shepherd”



“The most spectacular sin that has ever been committed in the history of the world is the brutal murder of Jesus Christ, the morally perfect, infinitely worthy, divine Son of God.”  
John Piper





“Not only did Jesus attract them with the charism of his personality, but the content of his preaching and teaching exerted an adhesive power, binding the Apostles to himself. His doctrine was difficult to understand, and even more challenging to live, but something told them that it was true – even when the majority of people around him rejected it. These men wanted truth, and in a very short time they had developed confidence that they would find the truth in Jesus.”  
Lee Piché



“The scene transacted in Jerusalem at the betrayal and rejection of Christ represents the scene which will take place in the future history of the world, when Christ is finally rejected. The religious world will take sides with the first great rebel, and will reject the message of mercy in regard to the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”

Ellen G. White, Ms40-1897.  
par. 18.



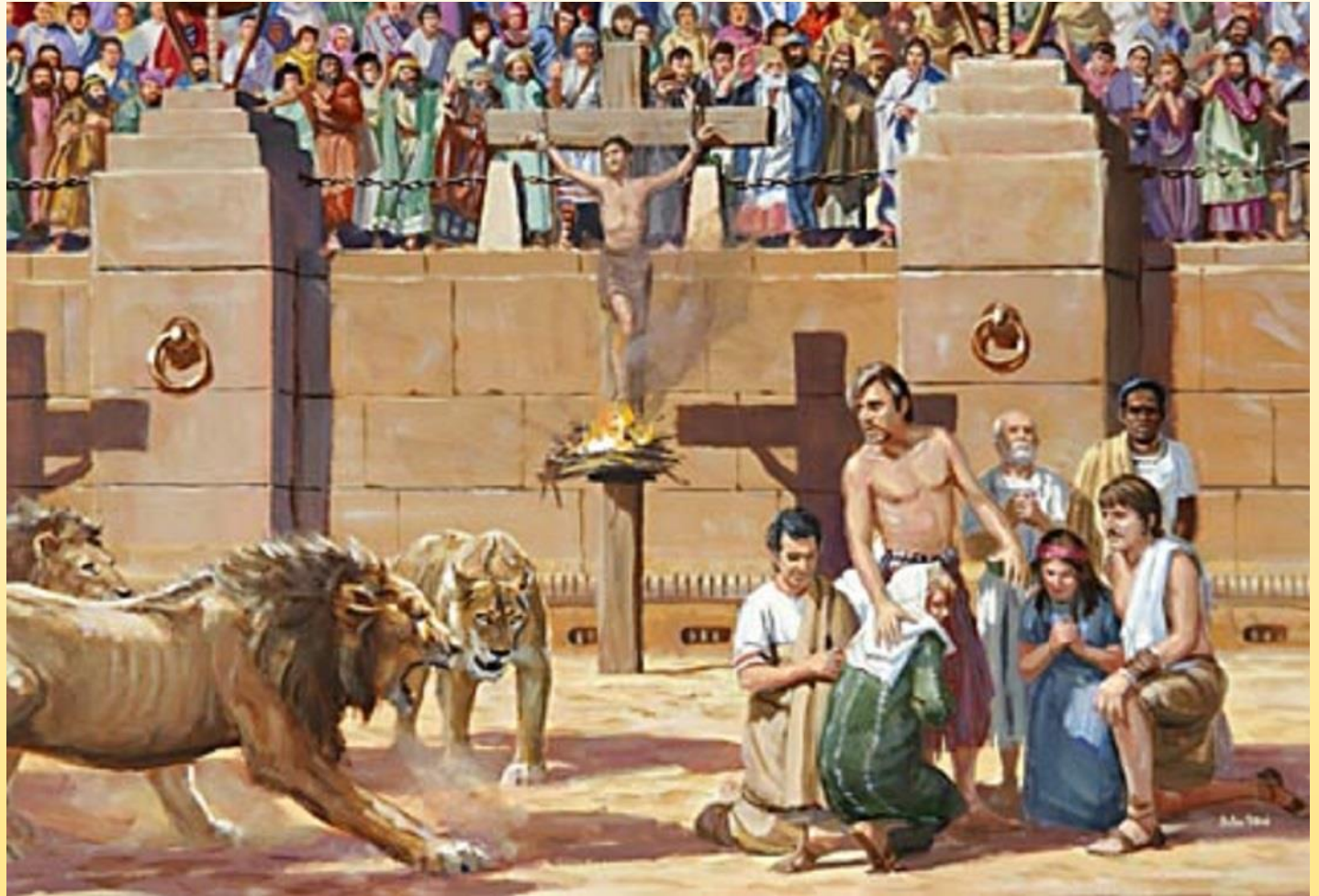
3. The challenge  
for a follower of  
Jesus is to  
continue to follow  
Him in all  
circumstances

“And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.”





“Let us not forget:  
we are a pilgrim  
church, subject to  
misunderstanding,  
to persecution, but  
a church that  
walks serene,  
because it bears  
the force of love.”  
Oscar A. Romero





"If men of leadership do not take the responsibility of leading, we will by default surrender the power over to Satan to destroy us and scatter the sheep, That my brothers, was never the intention of Calvary, of the epistles, the Gospels and the intention of Christ Himself."

Andy Zoppelt



"I didn't go to religion to make me happy...  
If you want a religion to make you feel  
really comfortable, I certainly don't  
recommend Christianity."

C. S. Lewis



# V. Conclusion





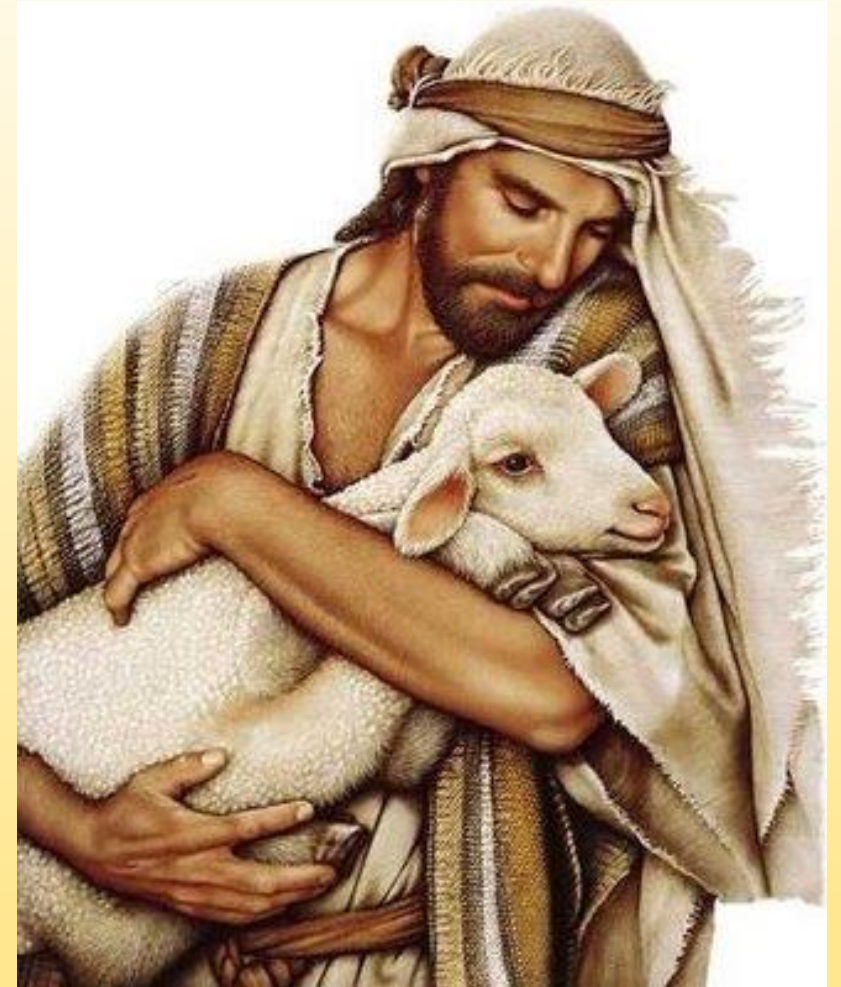
"God never tells us that being a follower of Christ will be easy. We will have hard times and struggles with many things including our own faith. But that is not the end of the story. We can rejoice because we know the outcome of this battle. Satan may be the ruler of this world but he doesn't have to be the ruler of your life."  
Daryl Evans



"O my brother, walk carefully with God. But remember that there are some whose eyes are intently fixed upon you, expecting that you will overreach the mark and stumble and fall. But if you keep in humility close to Jesus, all is well..."  
Ellen G. White, Faith and Works, p. 113.



"I saw that Jesus knows our infirmities, and himself hath felt their experience in all things but in sin, therefore he hath proportioned a way and a path to our strength and capacity, and, like Jacob, hath marched softly and in evenness with the children as they were able to endure, that he might entertain us by the comfort of his company, and be to us a perpetual guide. He does not despise, neglect, or leave behind the children of the flock." Ellen G. White, *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 4. p. 131.





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