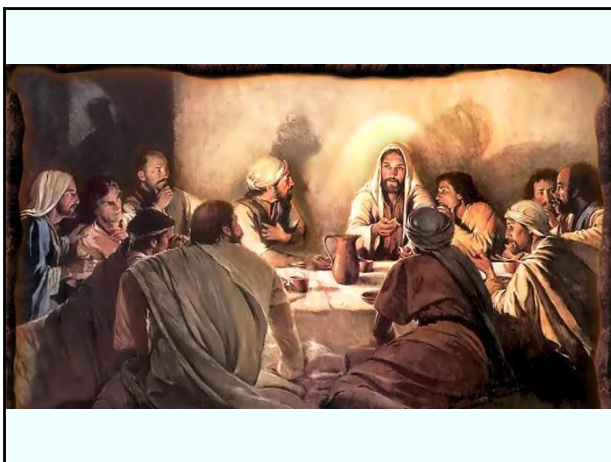


Scattered Sheep

Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
 - Ephesians 6:10-12 (NASB)



Sequence of Events

- Affirmations of loyalty
 - Jesus predicts that they all would desert Him...
 - But does so as a statement of fact
 - ALL said they would remain true to Jesus



Sequence of Events

- Affirmations of loyalty
- Arrest of Jesus
 - ALL deserted their Master
 - John appears at the courtyard of the high priest
 - Peter also shows up; denies Jesus thrice



Sequence of Events

- Affirmations of loyalty
- Arrest of Jesus
- After the crucifixion
 - Hid themselves in their homes

Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with Me.

- John 16:32

Sequence of Events

- Affirmations of loyalty
- Arrest of Jesus
- After the crucifixion
 - Hid themselves in their homes
 - Locked the doors out of fear

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

- John 20:19

Sequence of Events

- Affirmations of loyalty
- Arrest of Jesus
- After the crucifixion
 - Hid themselves in their homes
 - Locked the doors out of fear
 - Retained little or nothing of the instruction of Jesus concerning His death



But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.

- Luke 24:21

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit.

- Luke 24:37

What the Disciples Lacked

- Forethought

But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

- Matthew 24:43

Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

- Matthew 10:16

What the Disciples Lacked

- Forethought
- A Good Grasp of the Truth
 - Their faith in Jesus was warped by a false concept of the Messiah - one that did not involve the cross
 - As long as the cross was only talked about, they could accommodate it
 - When the cross became a reality, their belief system came crashing down

What the Disciples Lacked

- Forethought
- A Good Grasp of the Truth
- Self-knowledge

Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

- I Corinthians 10:12

What the Disciples Lacked

- Forethought
- A Good Grasp of the Truth
- Self-knowledge
 - *Disciples thought they knew how strong they were, but they did not know how much fear of man existed within them*
 - *One who knows his weaknesses can become strong, even on his weak point*
 - *He who knows not his weaknesses cannot be strong at any point*

What the Disciples Lacked

- Forethought
- A Good Grasp of the Truth
- Self-knowledge
- Discipline of Experience
 - *Disciples had only experienced the trials of raw recruits*



What the Disciples Lacked

- Forethought
- A Good Grasp of the Truth
- Self-knowledge
- Discipline of Experience
 - *Disciples had only experienced the trials of raw recruits*
 - *Previously, their worst “sifting” came when unable to cast out a demon*
 - *Experience would teach them the importance of Forethought, Truth, and Self-knowledge*

Conclusions

- ☞ Just like the disciples, we need to prepare ourselves for battle
- ☞ “Sifting” frequently comes without warning
- ☞ In warfare, preparation is everything!