The Story of the Cross

Ken Chapman

INTRODUCTION

- I want to ask a simple favor of you to just listen. And as you listen, try to picture the events that we're going to be talking about tonight.
- Because they're real events. They really took place. And we're going to go back in time. Almost 2,000 years ago.
- Jesus and his disciples cross the dark Kidron Valley to the Mount of Olives. To an olive grove known as Gethsemane.

1 Father, Let This Cup Pass From Me

- My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to the point of death. Wait here.
- Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me. But not as I want, but as you want.
- Simon, could you not watch with me one hour? The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
- If this cup cannot pass except I drink it, then your will be done. As he fell there in the garden, the sweat drops fell from him, as it were, great drops of blood.

2 Whom Do You Seek? I Am He

- Judas is leading a mob that is coming with torches and lanterns and clubs and weapons.
- Jesus says to the mob, Whom do you seek? And they say, Jesus of Nazareth. He says, I am He.
- Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?
- Peter, don't you understand that I could call twelve legions of angels from my father? But this is the very purpose of my coming. And I must drink this cup.

3 Are You the Christ, the Son of the Living God?

- Are you the Christ, the Son of the living God? Jesus, knowing that his hour is come, says, I am.
- And in unison, as almost as if it was rehearsed, they said, He is worthy of death.
- And from a distance the Lord turns and looks at Peter. And Peter runs away and weeps bitterly.
- He takes those thirty pieces of silver and brings them back into the temple to the chief priest and elders and says, I cannot keep this money. It's tainted with blood.

4 I Find No Crime in This Man

- My kingdom is not of this world. I've come to bring truth. In fact, whoever wants to know the truth will listen to me.
- Pilate scoffs and says, What is truth? And he goes back out to the Jewish mob and says, I find no crime in this man.

- Who would you have me released to you? Jesus, the king of the Jews or Barabbas, the terrorist, the murderer.
- Men who were trained at this procedure would have taken whips with either metal or shards of bone at the end of them and beaten. The exposed back of Jesus.
- I wash my hands of this innocent man. And they reply with the most ominous words, let his blood be upon us and upon our children.

5 It Is Finished

- The place in the Aramaic known as Golgotha. The Latin term is Calvary. It literally means the place of the skull. And Jesus is there crucified between two thieves.
- Woman, behold your son. And to the disciple he loved, he said, Behold your mother, making sure that his mother was going to be taken care of.
- Will you remember me when you come into your kingdom? Jesus, having the power to forgive sins while he was here upon the earth, turns to him and says, Today you'll be with me in paradise.
- Jesus cries out with a loud voice, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
- It is finished. Father, into thy hands I give my spirit. And he dies.
- The veil of the temple that separated the holy place from the most holy place is torn in two from top to bottom.

THE CHALLENGE

Let this love of Christ compel you tonight to rededicate yourself to his service, to confess any sins that you might have that would stand between you and eternity, and to make your life right tonight, to live a life worthy of that cross.

MY NOTES