

> “When Talk Turns into Walk” <

Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, “Whom are you seeking?” [John 18:4].

Went Forward- exerchomai [ex-er'-khom-ahee]:

1) to go or come forth

- a) of those who leave a place of their own accord.
- b) to go forth from one's power, escape from it in safety.
- c) to come forth (from privacy) into the world, before the public, (of those who by novelty of opinion attract attention).
- d) of reports, rumors, messages, precepts.
- e) to be made known, declared.
- f) to be spread, to be proclaimed.
- g) to come forth as from the heart or the mouth, to flow forth from the body.
- h) to emanate, issue: to come out from a source- [spring].

1. A false friend had betrayed the Lord. Judas, one of Christ's most intimate friends for the past three years, led temple guards and an antagonistic mob to drag Jesus to judgment.

2. A true follower had denied his Master. At first Peter tried to resist, by striking out with a weapon. But Jesus would permit no resistance. Darkness must have its hour. Peter's act of resistance was a rash yet brave act. But what else can we expect? Hadn't Peter promised to follow Jesus even to the death? Then Jesus was bound and dragged to the high priest (who had already, before the trial, condemned Jesus to death). Peter followed the crowd, but in the darkness and among Jesus' enemies, His courage faded. When he was accused by servants of being one of Jesus' companions, Peter, shivering in the cold of the dark night, cursed angrily and denied his Lord. Peter had the courage for an impulsive act, but as the darkness deepened and pressed in around him, that courage drained away.

3. Men charged with communicating God's truth had turned with murder in their hearts, against the God they claimed to serve. Called before an illegally convened court, Jesus was questioned behind closed doors, beaten, and then sent away to the Roman authorities, who alone had the power to condemn a person to death. The religious leaders who were the keepers of the written Word, but now were struggling to suppress its light.

4. A man convinced of Jesus' innocence permitted Him to be tormented and crucified. If the religious authority was perverted, what of the secular? Rome had no quarrel with Jesus, who at this time had never confronted or challenged its rule. This is the judgment of Pilate the Roman governor, who announced, "I find no basis for a charge against Him." Yet, pressured and threatened by the Jews he supposedly governed, Pilate ultimately gave in to expediency and permitted Jesus' crucifixion. Pilate had no commitment to truth. Though there was no basis in law for the execution of Jesus, Pilate did the expedient thing and chose to compromise his conscience. Jesus would die.

5. The crowd that cheered Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem now demanded His death and begged the release of a murderer. It was the habit in those days to release a prisoner (often a political prisoner) at the Passover festival. Looking for a way to save Jesus, Pilate offered the Jews a choice. Which prisoner would they like released: Jesus, or Barabbas, an insurrectionist, murderer, and robber? The power of darkness was revealed in the swelling cry, "No, not Him! Give us Barabbas!"

- Conclusion -

In the last events of Jesus' life on earth the nature of sinful man, and the sovereignty of God was finally revealed. Only the love of God in Jesus, who remained committed to the ultimate sacrifice, burns steady and bright.