

THREE TYPES OF BELIEVERS

MATTHEW 26

Text: Matt 26:20-23, 33-43, 47-50

Introduction:

Somebody has said that there are three groups in every church: those who make it happen, those who watch it happen, and those who wonder what is happening. I suppose that there is some truth to that.

Someone else has said there are three groups: the plus-plus crowd: "I can do it, and you can do it, and let's get it done"; the plus-minus crowd: "I can do it, and you can't do it, so get out of my way and I will do it"; and the minus-minus crowd: "I can't do it, and you can't do it, it can't be done, whoever brought it up to begin with?" I suppose that there is some truth to that as well.

I'm not proposing to divide Christianity into three groups altogether. There are probably a lot more than three different groups in every church. But I want to call attention to three very distinguished groups seen in this passage.

Notice:

1. DIFFERENT GROUPS SEEN

A. Jesus

B. The three disciples Peter, and Zebedee's two sons.

C. The eight disciples on the edge of the garden.

2. DIFFERENCE IN POSITION

A. Jesus alone in the Garden

(Matthew 26:39) "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

(Matthew 26:42) "He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."

1. A picture of selflessness

a. Was desiring God's will to be done.

B. Peter and Zebedee's sons

(Matthew 26:36-38) "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. {37} And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. {38} Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me."

(Matthew 26:40-41) "And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? {41} Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

(Matthew 26:43-45) "And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. {44} And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. {45} Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

1. A picture of selfishness

- a. Was more concerned about sleep than watching, and praying

2. There are a lot today who are spiritually sleeping.

(1 Thessalonians 5:6) "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

(Jonah 1:6) "So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not."

C. Remaining 8 disciples

(Matthew 26:36) "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder."

1. A picture of believers on the fringe of the world.
2. Was the largest group.
3. Was in a sense nearer to Judas and his crowd than they were to Jesus.
 - a. Though they were not against Jesus, it would not have taken too many steps for them to have joined in with Judas the betrayer, and the crowd that hated Jesus.

4. We have today people in churches that are just a few steps from the modernist, liberals, ecumenist, and evangelicals.

(2 Corinthians 6:17) "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

3. DIFFERENT RESPONSIBILITY

A. Some were told to sit.

(Matthew 26:36) "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder."

1. They were not asked to pray. Wonder why? The Lord knew them too well.

B. Three were ask to go further and to watch and pray.

(Matthew 26:37-38) "And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. {38} Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me."

1. Watch or Vision

(Proverbs 29:18) "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

Illustration:

Young man wanting to join the service.. Was ask what branch, he responded the coast guard so that I can just coast.

a. There are too many preachers just coasting with no vision.

b. There are too many Christians today who have no vision and are just coasting.

C. Responsibilities come with reliability as a price tag.

1. It may mean giving up things dear to us to do God's will.

D. The closer to the Saviour you get the smaller the crowd becomes

Close:

Which group do you belong? Christ like in prayer, and selflessness, or the three closer to Jesus, or the 8 on the fringe?

There is one more group, but they are not believers.

That is the group that Judas belonged to.

Possibly you might be here and have never trusted Christ as your personal Saviour.