The Greatest Story Ever Told

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INTRODUCTION

- I'd like for us to continue to contemplate the story of the cross this morning.
- The story we're about to share is a true story. It's the greatest story ever told.
- I want you to imagine that you're able to witness these events.

1 Not My Will, but Thine Be Done

- Jesus tells those apostles, sit here and watch with me while I pray. And you pray also.
- He says, Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me. But not my will, but thine be done.
- He says, My soul is extremely sorrowful. Could you not watch with me but a moment? The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

2 Do You Betray the Son of Man With a Kiss?

- Do you still sleep? It is enough. Let's get up. Because the time of my betrayal is at hand, and the one who betrays me is near.
- Jesus says, Do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?
- Put the sword away, Peter, because those who live by the sword will die by the sword.
- The mob binds him and begins to take him away, and the disciples, once ready to fight, now just flee and leave him alone.

3 Are You the Christ, the Son of God?

- The high priest says, I put you under oath. Are you the Christ, the Son of God? Jesus simply replies, I am.
- They blindfolded Jesus and spat upon him and slapped him and taunted him by saying, Prophesy, who just struck you.
- Peter began to curse and to swear and said, I don't know the man. And the rooster crowed.
- And at that look, Peter ran out and wept bitterly.

4 The Sorrow of Regret Overtakes Judas

- The sorrow of regret overtakes Judas, and he takes that dirty money, the 30 pieces of silver that he had accepted to betray his Lord.
- They buy a field, a potter's field to bury the indigent. And it happens to be the very field in which Judas hanged himself.
- The Jewish leaders called that field the field of blood.

5 I Find No Crime in Him

- My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, then would my disciples fight to free me.
- I've examined this man, and I find no crime in him. And they still cry out for blood.
- Who would you have me release to you? Barabbas, a terrorist, insurrectionist, and a murderer? Or Jesus, who calls himself the King of the Jews.
- I wash my hands, because I'm innocent of this righteous man's blood. To which the crowd ominously says, Let his blood be upon us and upon our children.

6 It Is Finished

- They bring him to Golgotha or Calvary, which just simply means the place of the skull. And he's crucified with two thieves, one on each side.
- As he's nailed to that cross, he says, Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing.
- Remember me, Jesus, when you come in your kingdom. Jesus said today, you'll be with me in paradise.
- Jesus cries out, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
- Jesus simply says, It is finished. He says, Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit. He bows his head. And he dies.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Why not believe in him? Repent of your sins, confess your faith, and be baptized this morning for the remission of your sins.**

MY NOTES