

Angels On Call

Matthew 26:47–56 (J.B. Phillips New Testament)

A. Introduction

1. Today we have the dramatic moment of Jesus' arrest at Gethsemane.
2. Satan entered Judas, who now steps forward to betray the Lord with a kiss.
3. In that tense moment as He was to be arrested, Jesus reveals a staggering truth.
4. He could have called upon heavenly armies to rescue Him. Yet He didn't.
5. This is not a story of weakness, but one of divine restraint and sacrificial love.

B. The Adversary and Judas Become Associated

1. Luke tells us that **Satan entered into Judas** to betray Jesus (Luke 22:3).
2. He arrived with a crowd—soldiers, religious officials, and servants.
3. Peter attempted to defend Jesus, but the Lord stopped him, stating: He had the armies of heaven were on call. (Matthew 26:53) But He didn't call them.

C. Angels and Jesus Are Associated

1. We see throughout the life & ministry of Jesus, angels appearing again & again.
2. Angels were busy at the time of **His Birth**
 - a. An angel appeared to Mary, announced the birth (Lk 1:26–37).
 - b. Upon His birth, a multitude of the heavenly host filled the sky (Luke 2:14).
3. We see angels after Jesus' **temptation** caring & ministered to Him (Matt 4:11).
4. We see angels present at his **resurrection**. (Matt. 28:1- 7)
5. From birth to resurrection, angels are constantly connected with the life of Jesus.
6. Yet when He seemed to need them most, they remained silent.

D. Why Didn't Jesus Call the Angels?

1. Why would the Son of God allow Himself to be arrested, beaten, mocked, and crucified when He had the power to stop it instantly?
2. Why endure the Cross when heaven's armies were ready to intervene?
3. Jesus Himself answers the question in Matthew 26:54:
4. *“But how then could the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?”*
5. Several great truths explain why the angels were not called.

E. The Scriptures Must Be Fulfilled

1. First, **the Cross was part of God's eternal plan**.
2. Peter says Christ was foreordained before the foundation of the world (1 Pet 1:20)
3. The sacrifice of Jesus was not an accident, or an interruption. It **was** the plan.
4. Throughout the Old Testament the coming Cross is foreshadowed and foretold.
5. Every **Passover lamb** pointed forward to the Lamb of God.
6. **David's Prophecy** in Psalm 22 describes crucifixion in vivid detail.
7. **Isaiah's Prophecy** in Isaiah 53 portrays the suffering servant:
8. **Zechariah** prophesied (Zech.13:6) of the wounds Christ received on the Cross.
9. Even **Judas' betrayal was predicted**.

10. Everything unfolding in Gethsemane had been written in the Scriptures before.
11. If angels intervened, prophecy would fail, & we would be left without a Saviour.
12. And God's plan of redemption would have been undone.
13. Something greater than deliverance was taking place that night.

F. **The Saviour Must Be Forsaken**

1. Another reason for no angels is that **Jesus had to experience abandonment**.
2. Throughout His ministry Jesus repeatedly told His disciples betrayal was coming.
3. He also warned His disciples that they would abandon Him. And they did.
4. David described the Messiah as "despised and rejected."
5. Isaiah said, "We hid, as it were, our faces from Him." (Isa. 53:3)
6. Even more painfully, Jesus would experience a moment when He cried:
7. *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"* (Matthew 27:46)
8. The sin of the world was placed upon Him.
9. He was forsaken so that we might never be.
10. He endured separation so that we could be reconciled to God.

G. **Souls Must Be Freed From Their Sins**

1. If angels had come to rescue Jesus, the Gospel would not exist.
2. There would have been, no cross, no atonement, no forgiveness, & no salvation.
3. Humanity would remain lost and condemned, forever without hope
4. But **God's love kept Jesus on the Cross**. Romans 5:8
5. The angels were not summoned so that sinners could be saved.

H. **The Call of Christ Is to Sinners, Not to Angels**

1. At Gethsemane Jesus did not call the angels, He issued a call to sinners.
2. He calls the weary, the guilty, those burdened with sin and shame.
3. *"Come unto Me, all you who labour & are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*
4. The angels were ready to come at His command.
5. Jesus chose instead to give His life so that we might come to Him.

I. **Have You Responded to His Call to Salvation?**

1. God still speaks to hearts today. Perhaps He has been speaking to you.
2. Maybe you have felt conviction about your sins.
3. Maybe someone has spoken to you about your need to be right with God.
4. These moments are not accidents. They are invitations from the Lord.

J. **Will You Respond to God's Call Today?**

1. Jesus refused to call the angels so that He could call you.
2. He endured betrayal, abandonment, suffering, and death.
3. Just so that you could receive forgiveness and eternal life.
4. The question is not whether the angels were ready, but whether **you are ready**.
5. Will you answer the call of Christ today?
6. The Saviour who went willingly to the Cross now invites you to come.