

## Jesus Crossed Over the Brook Cedron

*“1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples. 2 And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples. 3 Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? 5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. 6 As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground. 7 Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. 8 Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way: 9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none. 10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. 11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? 12 Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him.” (John 18:1-12 KJV)*

*“When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.” (John 18:1 KJV)* Jesus after he had the Passover dinner with His disciples: after he preached to them and instructed them of what is to come and what they are going to face and in what way He need to go back to God the father: after they prayed and after they sang, the time then had come to go into the next stage of their lives and ministry. Jesus went forth with His disciples, without delay and without fear or reluctance. He went forth full of willingness to face and to go through the next step that God wanted Him and wanted His disciples to pass through, doing the whole will of God. *Even for us today, we are moving forward toward the next stage and the next step of our lives and the calling of God that He calls us today to achieve. Therefore we need to be fully willing and abiding with God and to what He prepared for us to pass through.*

Jesus did not go alone but He took His disciples with Him, those who are willing to follow Him and doing His will in full. He took His disciples with Him so they will witness what He will suffer and that will be a teaching and preparation for them. Jesus took His disciples with Him so they will know the way, to see the future and what is waiting for them and how they need to live and how they ought to face events of life. Jesus took His disciples with Him so they can see and discover their weaknesses, to be corrected and to be further better, and to overcome in the future to come.

*In the same way today, the Lord is taking us, we who are His church and His disciples, who are willing to follow Him and do His will, He is taking us into new stage of our life; to witness the next task that would be entrusted to us. Therefore, put in your mind that the suffering that we are passing today is a training for us from the Lord to pass through the narrow gate and to be able to continue to move into the narrow way in facing the new events of life.*

Christ with His disciples crossed the brook Cedron; a significant place that Jesus needed to pass through marking the start of His real suffering. The meaning of brook is a small river. King David wrote about the Messiah and prophesied about Him in Psalm 110, that God will subdue nations under him, that He will judge the countries and rule over His enemies. It mentioned also on Psalm 110 verse 3 that the people with the Messiah (His disciples) will be willing in the day of the battle to go with the Messiah as their priest, *“1 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. 2 The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. 3 Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. 4 The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. 5 The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath. 6 He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries. 7 He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head.” (Psalm 110:1-7 KJV)* It mentioned in verse 7 that the Messiah will drink from the brook on the way. Jesus, the Messiah went into that way that is ordained by God and crossed the brook Cedron, to fulfill what God had ordained for Him to pass through. The meaning of Cedron or Kidron is turbid. It is the name of the winter torrent, rising near Jerusalem and flowing down through a valley of Kidron, having Mount of Olives on the east, into the dead sea.

The water of that brook is turbid possibly because it is carrying the dirt and the garbage things of the city; Christ drank from that brook. He crossed that brook in order to deal with our sins and forever by offering His body on the cross for our salvation. He crossed the brook to enter into the garden that He used to go to pray. He went to pray with His disciples, and preparing them for the battle that He, and later they, and today we, need to pass through.

David crossed the brook of Kidron while he was escaping from his son Absalom, who was after his father to kill him and to make himself king instead of his father, as we read here, *“And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.” (2 Samuel 15:23 KJV)* David passed the brook, with the people who were willing to face suffering and stand firm in facing persecution from the traitors. They crossed the brook Kidron with their king. And now here, Jesus, the Son of David, being driven out by the rebellious Jews, who would not have Him to reign over them, passed over the brook, attended by a company of true disciples who had set their hearts to follow Christ and to do His will. David betrayed by His son Absalom who was supported by Ahithophel, and Jesus driven out by the Jews and Judas was in plot against him.

*Are you willing today to cross this turbid brooke with Jesus and be willing to suffer and to be persecuted for His sake and to continue to do the will of God? Awaiting for us is not only pain and suffering, not only traitors and persecutors, but reward and eternity.*

The brook Cedron mentioned in other places where the Godly kings of Judah, who had cleansed the temple, they brought the idols and throw them in the brook Kidron where they

destroyed and burnt at Cedron brook. The following are the kings who their names linked with the Cedron brook:

**1. King Asa:** *“And also concerning Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped it, and burnt it at the brook Kidron.” (2 Chronicles 15:16 KJV)* King Asa in bringing revival he cut down the idol of his mother and burnt it. In the same way we are called to remove all the idols and wrong practices of our parents tradition from our lives.

**2. King Hezekiah:** *“And they arose and took away the altars that were in Jerusalem, and all the altars for incense took they away, and cast them into the brook Kidron.” (2 Chronicles 30:14 KJV)* King Hezekiah in bringing revival he took away all the non authorized altar from Jerusalem and through them in brook Kidron. In the same way we are called to remove all the wrong practices of the people, out from God’s church.

**3. King Josiah:** *“4 And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel. 5 And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven. 6 And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people.” (2 Kings 23:4-6 KJV)* These Godly Kings they brought all the idols from the house of God, and burned them or throw them at brook Kidron.

Even today, the Godly church leaders and the disciples should follow these good examples and take out from God’s church all these idols that had infected the church from the world, and as the followings: Valentine’s, Halloween, New Year celebration, Christmas activities, Christmas tree, Santa Claus, Boy friend and girl friend, Homosexuality, Father Day, Mother Day, Birth Days, Friend Day, and other days to come. All these needs to be taken out from God’s church and to cleanse God’s church from it.

We, as Godly church leaders and workers, should clean God’s church from all these idols, as well as to cleanse God’s churches from immoralities, fornication, greed, lust, wrong motive, manipulation, love of money, using God’s church as a base for business, corruption and injustice.

We are called to stand firm with Christ and be willing to cross the brook Kidron, facing the traitors and the persecutors who love sin and hate holiness, justice and righteousness.

We should be willing to face persecution and endure it from those who cause division and the rebellious who hate God’s Word and statutes and precepts, and who are unfaithful to God’s church who taught them and trained them. Let us be willing today to cross with Jesus as His disciples, crossed with Him facing all the power of the evil one who wages war against God and His church. Let us be willing not to compromise and condone the sins of those who do evil and who want us to consent with their evil way.

Jesus went to the garden to pray, and this is the Garden of Gethsemane that we can read here: *“Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.” (Matthew 26:36 KJV)* We ought to face the challenges of this world by our willingness to suffer and by the spiritual weapons that God had entrusted to us.

We ought to face the challenges of this world by prayer, fasting, loving God, making disciples, doing His work, living in holiness, and keeping the good testimony.

*“And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.” (John 18:2 KJV)* Jesus often resorted with His disciples to that garden in order to pray. Jesus was not resorting there for fun or leisure or to take food, but for prayers. Prayer was the style of our Lord Jesus to face the struggles of the day. In the night he was praying and in the day time He was executing the mission. Judas was also taken to that place with the Lord for prayer and had heard the teaching of Jesus. But at that day Judas was not with His master and the disciples, for he decided to draw back to do other shameful thing. Judas knew the place, and he did not go to pray, but he went to betray Jesus. There are many who know the Lord and know His ways but ultimately they will choose to walk contrary to Him and to His will.

*“Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.” (John 18:3 KJV)* Judas was enticed to have a pomp and worldly authority by having a group of people under his disposal and order. Noticed he came with officers, and the band of men that were with him were of big number. That privileges that he received from the chief priests and Pharisees had blinded his eyes from the truth. He came with a multitude of men and officers, of large number, as Absalom went up with a big army to fight David his father. They came with lanterns and torches looking for Jesus, thinking that he will hide from them.

When time will come for us to cross the brook Cedron and face the sin and deal with corruption, we need to be ready to face the battle and go through it. We might be faced with persecution and people hurt us with worldly weapon of hatred, slander, slur, lies, false testimony, cheating us with mask on their faces, and using influential power to force us to agree with their evil proposal and plans. But we need to face the situation with the truth, applying the whole will of God in our lives, relying on God’s Word and promises.

*“Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?” (John 18:4 KJV)* Jesus knew the hour had come and He need to pass through it. We also when we know the hour had come we need to go out to face and to go through all the process of suffering that God wants us to pass through.

Jesus took the initiative to ask them, ***“Whom seek ye?” (John 18:4 KJV)*** *When we know that we need to take the initiative we should not be afraid or be reluctant to face.*

***“They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.” (John 18:5 KJV)*** He is Jesus of Bethlehem, and out of their ignorant and disrespect they called him Jesus of Nazareth. But He did not deny that or tried to hide Himself from them, because He knew that the time for Him had come to suffer. When the people were forcing Christ to have the crown, He move away from them, but when He was faced with suffering, He did not denied Himself that, but He went through it. *In the same way, we should have the same attitude. We should not be pleasure seekers and we should not escape suffering and live in compromises.*

***“And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.” (John 18:5 KJV)*** Notice that Judas separated himself from Christ and stood with those who betray Jesus, and was willing to destroy his master and the work of God. He was not ashamed of what He was doing. *Some people are not ashamed to do evil just to satisfy their own evil desires. Check yourself today, with whom you are standing? Are you standing with Jesus or with those who are betraying Him?*

There will be in certain time a demarcation between those who want to continue to follow Christ and those who are standing with others who want to destroy God’s work.

There are times when certain people, who call themselves disciples, but they are not, will be standing with the worldliness that is invading the church; they are condoning sin and they are hating correction, discipline and holiness. In such times, that will be the line of demarcation and separation from them.

*My dear and beloved faithful workers of Christ: We should not be grieved, saddened or discouraged when we see people in such a way, because God had revealed to us who they are. God would allow for certain time such kind of people to be with us, for He is reaching them with His grace through our lives. But when they are not willing to be changed, then that will be the time of separation between them and us, as they had separate themselves from Christ.*

***“As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.” (John 18:6 KJV)*** There is a divine power when we stand with the Lord and when we are willing to suffer and go through the narrow way that God had ordained for us to pass through. He said to them ***“I am he” (John 18:6 KJV)*** For He was willing and determined to go through the suffering of the cross. *Let us in the same way prepare our minds and thoughts not only to come out from worldliness and leisure life, but let everyone be willing to carry his cross and suffer for Christ.*

When Jesus said, ***“I am he” (John 18:6 KJV)*** His enemy fell down. They were not willing to humble down and fall at His feet, therefore they were thrown down at their backs. There is power and terror when Jesus speaks and deal with His enemies. In

***Matthew 14:27***, when he said, ***“I am he” (Matthew 14:27 KJV)*** *The disciples revived and life came back to them in the midst of the raging sea that they were in. What I want to say is the following: There is grace and life when Jesus speaks with His friends, but fear and terror to his enemies.*

***“Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth.” (John 18:7 KJV)*** *Jesus was bold to face them. He has nothing to fear, and we have nothing to fear in facing the power of darkness and his instruments, for light will make darkness to flee away.*

For the second time Jesus asked them ***“Whom seek ye?” (John 18:7 KJV)*** Notice that certain people are seeking Jesus not to be blessed by Him but to betray Him for their own harm. Again they answered Him, with the same tone of ignorance, lack of wisdom and the blindness of mind they answered Him ***“Jesus of Nazareth.” (John 18:7 KJV)*** *Therefore in the midst of all the hatred against us, we still need to love the people who hate us because really they are not aware of what they are doing.* Even they fell backward Jesus did not attack them or totally destroyed them, seeing they are lost and blind and need the light of God. *Mercy and compassion still should be there in our hearts toward those who continue to do evil.*

***“Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way.” (John 18:8 KJV)*** Jesus seconded His answer to them, and He requested them to, ***“let these go their way.” (John 18:8 KJV)*** Jesus requested them to let His disciples to go free. Here Jesus showed the attitude and the character of the divine leader, who is defending and protecting those who are under his care.

Jesus put to shame those who came to arrest Him. He gave them the proof that they don’t need to come out to him with an army and weapons. He was keen to face their army alone in order to protect those whom God had entrusted to Him. But still they did not change, and continued to be eager to arrest Him.

***“That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none.” (John 18:9 KJV)*** The worldly leaders use the people under their care to provide for them and to protect them, but here is the opposite, Jesus protected His disciples to fulfill what the Word of God, and what He prayed to God, ***“While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.” (John 17:12 KJV)*** *If we are willing to go with the Lord we will never be lost. But if we are deciding to betray Him and move away from Him then that is for our lost.*

***“Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.” (John 18:10 KJV)*** Jesus took His disciples with Him to that place not only to let them learn new things and to witness certain events, but as well as, to let them see their weaknesses in order to correct them. Peter here being put first over the disciples, went with his anger, his emotions, and his own understanding to correct the situation. He moved with pride and ego and with the sense that he needs to do something, because he was put first over the disciples. Peter smote the high



priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The name of the high priest's servant was mentioned here to make it clear that Jesus was hated on personal level from the high priest. But that what Peter did not help Jesus, but troubled him. What Peter did it affected the testimony of Christ. It looks like Peter confirmed to those who came as army to arrest Jesus, that their coming with weapons was mandatory. *We should put in our minds that in moments at such the best thing we do is to watch and see. If Christ who can wipe them out was calm with them, why then Peter did such, and who are we to do such things that disturb what Jesus is doing. We should not use the weapons of this world, or the ways of this world, otherwise we are put into troubles.*

Christ was troubled, and what Peter did overshadowed what Christ earlier did. But that what happened was still good, because Peter had discovered his weaknesses and he was aware about his mistakes. *Christ will not be overwhelmed with our mistakes, for he has the means to correct us and reforms our ways. To such Lord and Savior we commit our life and cause.*

***“Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?” (John 18:11 KJV)*** Christ immediately reprimanded Peter with a firm command, ***“Put up thy sword into the sheath:” (John 18:11 KJV)*** and with a sound explanation, ***“The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?” (John 18:11 KJV)*** Christ made it clear to Peter and to us today that we cannot bypass suffering or put it aside or do things to ameliorate that. As we chose to obey God and do and live His will, then suffering is a part and parcel of our lives and calling, and we need to endure it.

***“Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him.” (John 18:12 KJV)*** The band, the captain, and officers, entails a big number of army came to arrest Jesus. They took him and bound Him, not ashamed of all the non resistance, and the grace that He showed to them. *We should not be hurt when people treat us and hurt us with such humiliating way, for their purpose and mission is contrary to what we believe and mission.* They bound Jesus, but that cannot control His authority and power. They bound Him because it was given to them from above, for a purpose and for a plan to serve all mankind.

***My Dear and Beloved: When we pass through painful crisis, we ought to see the whole picture and what God had planned for us from His perspective and from His view and will.***

*We need to be willing to suffer, and to cross with Christ over the brook Cedron, separating ourselves from the world, and from the corruption that is infiltrating God's church.*

*We need to be willing to go with our Master to our destiny, having the attitude of servants, humble and willing to be humiliated, and armed with the weapons of righteousness, putting on the full armor of God to face the schemes of the evil one, moving in the way that our master and Lord, had prepared before us to go.*

***My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life.***

*Lord I commit myself to go and serve you and do the work that you had prepared in advance for me to do.*

*Lord I am willing to separate myself from all the corruption, the compromises and the unrighteousness that is infiltrating your church.*

*Let us confess our sins before the Lord and renounce them all.*

*Lord forgives me these sins \_\_\_\_\_. I renounce them all in the name of Jesus.*

*Lord I am willing to suffer, according to your will, fulfilling the Scriptures, willing to forgive those who hurt me, and willing to go into the way that you passed before and prepared for me to go after you.*

*Lord I pray, to show me my weaknesses and corrects me.*

*Lord I thank you for preserving my life and had kept me safe in your hand. Lord sustains me and provide for me. Lord helps me to pass through the way that you had prepared for me. For in you I commit my life and in you I trust.*

*Lord fills me with the Holy Spirit and gives me the spiritual gifts that I need in my life to spread your Word and to teach and to make new disciples.*

*Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and who had committed their life to go into the narrow gate, and are willing to suffer for your cause; Lord protects them and provide for them all their needs.*

*Lord fills them with the Holy Spirit and gives them the spiritual gifts to go on to evangelize and to teach your Word to others and bring them to you. Lord I pray that you make their life testimony a good example to others to know you and to follow your ways.*

*Lord blesses us as a church and bestow on us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and make disciples of all nations. Lord enables us to evangelize and to reach the lost and new areas with the Gospel of Jesus. Lord helps us to plant new Bible studies, new congregations, and to raise up more disciples to serve you. Lord continues to protect us and provide all our needs. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

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