

## The Arrest of Jesus (Matthew 26:47-56; Mk 14:43-52; Lk 22:47-53; Jn 18:1-12)

John 18:1-2 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, into which He Himself entered, and His disciples. 2 Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place; for Jesus had often met there with His disciples.

- John the Apostle does not mention the account of the Garden of Gethsemane like the Synoptic Gospels, but simply a transition from the location of the Last Supper to the deportation from the Garden. The last time we saw Judas in the picture was when he left for the betrayal during the Lord's Supper in a nearby upper room.
- John 18:2 mentions that Judas knew where this place for he had been with Jesus many prior times in the past. It seems to have been a favorite retreat from the confines of the city. It appears that Judas led the arresting force and priests over to the sight of the upper room and upon not finding Jesus and the others, he headed to the Garden to betray.

John 18:3 Judas then, having received the {Roman} cohort, and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

- There appears to be a little discrepancy concerning what type of soldiers came to arrest Jesus, whether Hebrew or Roman. The fact that they are using the Roman term "cohort" would seem to imply that they were Roman soldiers.
- A cohort was a group of 600 soldiers. They had the lanterns, torches and weapons. Matthew and Mark said the weapons were actually clubs and swords. This would be a pretty intimidating force to come out against Jesus, outnumbering Him and the apostles by fifty to one.
- Why would Pilate, the commander of the Roman soldiers be involved in a Hebrew movement like this? Perhaps he is trying to keep a riot from occurring and this would be a good way to keep it under control.

John 18:4-6 Jesus therefore, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth, and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" 5 They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am {He.} And Judas also who was betraying Him, was standing with them. 6 When therefore He said to them, "I am {He} " they drew back, and fell to the ground.

- These were men of war coming to carry out justice and vengeance against Christ. The large number of them can be explained quite easily by remembering that numerous times in the past the Jews had to let Jesus slip between their fingers because of the number of followers defending Him at His rallies. They were determined not to let this happen to let this

happen again.

- What they did not bargain for is that Jesus had already accepted His destiny and time for this in the Garden of Gethsemane. He had prayed about it for nearly two hours and it was time to complete this crucifixion for the souls of the world depended on it. Little do these men know that they are really tools to carry out the will of the Lord. *1 Cor 2:8 "...none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory..."*
- When Jesus asked the leaders at the front of the mob, "Whom do you seek?" they responded "Jesus of Nazareth". Since it was very dark outside and many did not personally know who Jesus was, it was a good question to ask, for they want to make sure they get the right man. Most people would be trying to get out of the way of this angry mob, but Jesus, without flinching or showing fear, answered, "I am He". The multitude fell back like dominoes with fear. Apparently they were so shocked that Jesus was openly volunteering for arrest that they tried to draw back with fear and it started a chain reaction. The High Priest stepped back, who then tripped over the chief priest, the elders, the Pharisees, the centurions and then the soldiers.

John 18:7-9 Again therefore He asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." 8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am {He} if therefore you seek Me, let these go their way," 9 that the word might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom Thou hast given Me I lost not one."

- Jesus is very adamant with this crowd asking, "Whom do you seek?" They said again that they were seeking for Jesus. He almost seems perturbed when He replied, "I told you that I am He." They were so shocked that He was willing to give Himself up like this. This is not the normal thinking of the world.
- What is of particular interest is the second-half of Jesus' response to them in this verse. *"...let these go their way," 9 that the word might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom Thou hast given Me I lost not one."* Even upon facing the danger that He was in, Jesus still expressed care and concern for those close to Him. He would soon be beaten and hung on a cross, but His heart would not be distracted from the love that He holds in His heart for His people. This should give all Christians great joy knowing that He has put us first in His life; therefore we should put Him first in ours.
- In Matthew's and Mark's accounts it mentions this "Kiss of Death" of Judas. *Matt 26:48-50 Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, "Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one; seize Him." 49 And immediately he went to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. 50 And Jesus said to him, "Friend, {do} what you have come for." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.* The word for kissed implies multiple kisses from one cheek to the other. It is very sad that

Judas offers Jesus the greatest greeting of fellowship in his moment of great betrayal. Judas is symbolic of what we all have done to Jesus to a certain degree. We must be careful to be not a Christian on the outside while living a secret life of betrayal on the inside.

John 18:10-13 Simon Peter therefore having a sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. 11 Jesus therefore said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?" 12 So the {Roman} cohort and the commander, and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, 13 and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.

- Peter the activist and zealot for the cause of Christ took it too far again. In a moment of support for Jesus he undermined the very purpose of Christ. The word for sword is actually knife instead of sword. It typically referred to a type of everyday carrying knife for self-defense and daily usage for activities. This was very likely the knife he used to cut the Passover Lamb about three hours prior. He slashed the right hand man of the High Priest. His name was Malchus and he was probably struck with the long knife while trying to duck the swipe. The result was the cutting off of the right ear (Luke's account). Peter probably reached across his body with his right hand and in one move slashed the knife in a side swipe. He was one scared and crazy apostle to think that they could take on the cohort that outnumbered them 50 to 1.
- Jesus scolded Peter for this behavior, "Put that sword away, for I could have called twelve legions of angels (Mt 26:53) and they would fight for me. Are you trying to prevent this from happening?"
- Luke 22:51 states *But Jesus answered and said, "Stop! No more of this." And He touched his ear and healed him.* This miracle was perhaps what allowed the apostles not to be taken captive and carried away, for there was no evidence that this had occurred. Besides this is about Jesus and not the others. They have their man.
- There is an interesting account in Mark 14:51-52 *And a certain young man was following Him, wearing {nothing but} a linen sheet over {his} naked {body;} and they seized him. 52 But he left the linen sheet behind, and escaped naked.* The structure of this mentioning leads most to believe this running naked man is probably John Mark, the writer of this gospel account.
- Many believe it was Mark's home that the Lord's Supper was held based on the language in Mark's Gospel account. One commentary (Mark E. Moore pg 266 of Volume 2 on the Gospels) actually proposes that when Judas and the mob arrived at his home and not finding Jesus, Mark ran to the Garden to warn Him. This would possibly explain why he was wearing sleepwear in the middle of the night while out in the middle of a grove of olive trees. Whoever he is, he was terrified, having run right out of his

nightgown when grabbed by one of the soldiers.

### Lesson Application:

- Stop preventing Jesus from being the Christ! The apostles wanted to fight it out, but that was against the plan.
- Stop preventing Jesus from being the Christ! The mob was not willing to accept that Jesus was going to go with them, but that was the plan.
- Stop preventing Jesus from being the Christ! Mark or someone possibly went to warn Jesus to flee, but Jesus was resolved to carry out the will of God.
- Stop preventing Jesus from being the Christ! Judas thought through the kiss of betrayal that he was preventing Jesus carrying out his plans, but was actually playing into His hand.
- Stop preventing Jesus from being the Christ! Peter brought out his butcher knife and was ready to take heads off, but that was not the plan of Christ.

Jesus had a date with destiny and that destiny was to die on the cross for the sins of the world. This was the plan from before the foundations of the world. *Eph 1:3-4 Blessed {be} the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly {places} in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.* Jesus the man of destiny would not be denied the responsibility of saving the world.

Let me ask, what is preventing you from allowing Jesus from being Lord of your life. Jesus is the Christ, the savior of the world, but is He your Christ?

- Stop preventing Jesus from being the Christ! Be willing to give up that sin you so eagerly desire.
- Stop preventing Jesus from being the Christ! Be willing to put away your materialism and worldly love and make Him Christ in your life.
- Stop preventing Jesus from being the Christ! Trust what the Bible says in regards to the truth.
- Stop preventing Jesus from being the Christ! Trust that He can and will save you from your sins if you will simply trust Him.
- Stop preventing Jesus from being the Christ! Repent of your sins; confess Him as the Christ; be immersed into the death, burial and resurrection covenant of baptism and live a godly life for Him the rest of your life.

Stop preventing Jesus from being the Christ!