

Text: Matthew 26

⁴⁷ And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

⁴⁸ Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him."

⁴⁹ Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

⁵⁰ But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?"

Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.

⁵¹ And suddenly, one of those *who were* with Jesus stretched out *his* hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

⁵² But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

⁵³ Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?

⁵⁴ How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"

⁵⁵ In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me.

⁵⁶ But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."

Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

Matthew 26:47-56

THE BETRAYAL OF THE LORD JESUS

⁴⁷ And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

⁴⁸ Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him."

⁴⁹ Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

Matthew 26:47-48

1. Judas, one of the Twelve

- a) He was described as "one of the Twelve"
- b) He was the one who had betrayed the Lord Jesus

2. The "great multitude" he led

- a) They were armed with swords and clubs
- b) They had been sent by the chief priests and elders

3. The sign of betrayal

- a) The sign was "a kiss"
- b) It was normal to greet people with a kiss
- c) Judas would hold the Lord fast and identify Him for the soldiers

4. The Lord's response

- a) "Friend, why have you come?"
- b) The Lord continued to be gracious and kind
- c) Why indeed had Judas come with soldiers to arrest the Lord?

THE ANGRY RESPONSE OF PETER

⁵¹ And suddenly, one of those *who were* with Jesus stretched out *his* hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

⁵² But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

Matthew 26:51-52

1. One of those who were with the Lord Jesus

He was identified as Peter (John 18:10-11)

2. He struck a servant of the high priest and cut off his ear
3. Mercifully the Lord healed him
4. He also restrained Peter from further physical resistance

CALM ASSURANCE

⁵³ Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?

⁵⁴ How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"

Matthew 26:53-54

1. If the Lord wanted help
 - a) He would pray to the Father
 - b) God would have sent 12 legions of angels to protect the Son
2. Scripture must be fulfilled
 - a) Things must happen this way
 - b) The Lord will be arrested

ADDRESSING THE MULTITUDE

⁵⁵ In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me.

⁵⁶ But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."

Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

Matthew 26:55-56

1. Why had they come with sword and clubs?
2. Had they come against a robber?
3. He had taught in the Temple but they had not seized Him then
4. Scriptures were being fulfilled!

5. The Disciples of the Lord Jesus fled

a) Zechariah 13:7 was fulfilled

b) What the Lord had forewarned had come to pass

OUR CHALLENGE

1. Would we betray the Lord Jesus?

2. Would we flee from the Lord in times of distress?

3. May we pray and seek strength and courage!