

# **Mark 14:43-52 – Betrayal, Arrest, Deserting of Jesus**

TSK, GreekLexicon, Gill, Lightfoot, Poole, Gill, Henry, PNT, Trapp, JFB, Geneva, Clarke, Barnes, Vincent, Robertson, Eclectic, Calvin, Abbot? Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus' friends, even his closest ones, Peter, James, and John, **could not sit with him for 1 hour while he prayed** in agony. How hurt Jesus was at this. But that was only the beginning of his troubles.

Today you will see how he was **betrayed by his own friend**, he was **arrested by the leaders who should have protected him**, and then he was **deserted by all of his own disciples**. But it is more than knowing the intensity of Jesus' suffering. You must remember Jesus endured these intense sufferings for you. This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

**The Betrayal of Jesus**

**The Arrest of Jesus**

**The Deserting of Jesus**

Our goals are: **That you will see the love of Jesus to endure his betrayal, arrest, and abandonment, and that you will then love him with a truer and deeper love.**

## **The Betrayal of Jesus**

43 And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, **one of the twelve**, with a **great multitude** with **swords and clubs**, came from the **chief priests and the scribes and the elders**. 44 Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, "**Whomever I kiss**, He is the One; **seize Him** and lead Him away safely."

### **1. Judas, one of the twelve people closest to Jesus, came, along with the arresting officers, to get Jesus.**

These officers came from the priests and they were assisted by Roman soldiers. But why so many people? After all, Jesus never had an army. This **testified to the power these wicked men had seen in Jesus**. They wanted to have as many people ready to fight in case he used his power.

### **2. Judas had planned to identify Jesus with a kiss.**

A kiss was a sign of affection. It was a greeting that showed a desire for health, prosperity, and happiness. But it became a kiss of betrayal. But why kiss Jesus when **it was not his desire to show affection to him**? Two likely reasons:

**a. Judas had to come close to Jesus to make sure it was he since it was dark.** He couldn't take the chance that it was the wrong person, or he would lose his money.

**b. A kiss would give him a look of innocence before the world and before Jesus.** (So even if he could see Jesus, it would not be good to point him out.) **This type of betrayal with a kiss had been done before in Israel...and then there was a stabbing.**

**2 Samuel 20:9** Then Joab said to Amasa, "Are you in health, my brother?" And Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him.

Can you imagine what Judas conscience did to him for this work? He should have kissed the Son, so that he would not become angry (Psalm 2:12), but instead he kissed the Son and make him angry.

### **3. Judas then directed them to seize Jesus, tie him up, and take him away so he could be tried and executed.**

Two days before the Jewish leaders had already planned his arrest and execution. Their waiting was finally over. This was not impulsive...but planned and "legal." There were no "rogue" elements at work. **But why would Judas want them to tie him up?** He did not want to lose his payment. Jesus had slipped away before when they tried to seize him.

45 As soon as He had come, immediately he went up to Him and said to Him, "**Rabbi, Rabbi!**" and **kissed Him**.

### **4. Judas, when he came up to Jesus, called him "Learned Teacher" and then he kissed him. What a pretender!**

**Matthew records that Judas said: "Hail, Master."** He knew Jesus was a teacher of truth, a teacher than had come from God the Father, but yet he betrayed him. He looked at Jesus in the face, the **one who epitomized love and mercy**, and kissed him.

**Matthew records also that Jesus called Judas "friend."** Judas thought he could fool Jesus. **But Luke records the Lord bluntly telling Judas that he was betraying him with a kiss.** So Judas realized the Lord knew what he was doing. Judas' heart was exposed. And what a stinging response of the Lord: Calling Judas friend. Some friend he was!

**Furthermore, notice how Judas love for money drove him to even work when he was tired.**

## **5. Lessons:**

**a. You too can bring pain to Jesus when you sell him out...like when your children see you worried and they start to think Jesus can't help you, or when your family sees you taking on a job that the Lord Jesus of worship and treat him as if he did not deserve worship.** Instead, let the work of Jesus resound in your hearts regularly so that you don't sin against him.

**b. Don't love money so that you will sell your soul for it.** Love of money makes you marry wrongly. It makes you compromise in worship. It makes you covetous. It makes you endanger your health, physical and spiritual to get it.

**c. Every sin will be revealed in the presence of Jesus.** Hiding your sins is useless. He knows when you are faking it. Confess them instead. Let him set you free.

**d. There are always enemies of the church...and often they conspire together in great numbers.** Don't be surprised. There has never been a time when the enemies of the church did not try to destroy it.

Psalms 3:1 LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me.

## **The Arrest of Jesus**

46 Then they **laid their hands on Him and took Him.**

### **1. Jesus was taken into custody by the Jewish leaders.**

47 And one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

### **2. Peter (according to John) attempted to fight back to prevent the arrest of Jesus, and he cut of Malchus' right ear.**

He never waited for a command to attack from the Lord. He just acted! Peter had zeal, but it was misplaced zeal. (Jesus did remind Peter and those around if he wanted he could have called for 12 legions (more than 72,000) of angels to destroy Judas, the religious leaders, and the Roman soldiers that came against him (Matthew 26:53). Then Jesus healed Malchus' ear.

48 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? 49 "I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. **But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.**"

### **3. Jesus then rebuked the arresting officers for treating him as a violent criminal – a cutthroat or a robber.**

Jesus said he never gave them ground to think he was a thief or one who was fleeing from justice. Yet they came with a multitude (Luke's account) – hundreds, or 2000, according to the Jews, even while Jesus was willingly surrendering. They had lanterns, torches, and swords...as if going on a dangerous and urgent military mission.

### **4. Jesus reminded them they were fulfilling that great evil predicted in the Bible AND he was allowing them to do so because this was the decree of his Father (Matthew 26:53).**

He came to die. So there was no need for fighting. (At other times self-defense is essential and one must fight.) Jesus came to be betrayed, arrested, and executed for the sins of the world. (Daniel 9, for instance.)

Psalms 41:9 Even **my own familiar friend** in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has **lifted up his heel** against me.

Lamentations 4:20 The breath of our nostrils, **the anointed of the LORD, Was caught in their pits,** Of whom we said, "Under his shadow We shall live among the nations."

Isaiah 53:7 **He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth;** He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

Jesus said this to **comfort himself** with the trouble he was about to face.

Jesus said this to **challenge his disciples' faith** so they wouldn't lose hope. They would know this was God's plan!

Jesus said this to **convict those who were there arresting an innocent man.** (He could have had his angels destroy them.)

## **5. Lessons:**

**a. Be ready to suffer in your body for the one who suffered for your body and soul.** This is only rational.

**b. Your Lord Jesus became a prisoner so you could go free.** Don't ever forget this.

**c. Self-defense from man or beast is essential.** Those, like the government of Canada, that try to remove the right of self-defense, will have to give God account. They are committing a great wickedness in God's eyes. Why not have Pepper Spray?

**d. Zeal must never overtake reason.** Don't take over another man's job. Physical force is not always the best response. You must stay within what is permissible. Uzzah learned the hard way when he touched the Ark. Saul lost the kingdom. Uzziah was struck with leprosy.

**e. The Lord has a charge of angels around you at all times.** Go to sleep at night with that comfort in your heart!

**Hebrews 12:22** But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

## **The Deserting of Jesus**

50 Then they all forsook Him and fled.

### **1. All the disciples of Jesus fled and likely in a “precipitous” manner, according to John Gill.**

Zechariah 13:7 "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, Against the Man who is My Companion," Says the LORD of hosts. "**Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered**; Then I will turn My hand against the little ones.

John 16:32 "Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that **you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone**, because the Father is with Me.

How sinful this was to abandon the Savior. How sad this was to Jesus. Imagine his suffering. But he had come to be a sacrifice for sins so that souls would be saved.

51 Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, 52 and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.

### **2. There was one young man who followed Jesus, it seemed, while he was trying to hide his identity.**

No one knows who this was, but there are reasonable grounds to believe this was Mark. He lived in Jerusalem with his mother. **Only Mark records this incident**, opening a greater possibility that this was him. Further, he fled from Paul later on a missionary journey. It is likely Mark was pointing out he was no better than the others. (Similarly, Apostle John spoke of himself without mentioning his name.)

### **3. The young men, likely the Roman Soldiers who were there, tried to arrest him and he too fled.**

The Jewish leaders wanted to arrest anyone associated with Jesus...or whom they thought was associated with Jesus. The young man was bold, but not too much. He had come out to see what was happening, likely being a follower of Jesus. And he was not properly dressed, not having on any underclothes. As they tried to arrest him, knowing what would happen to him, he fled.

## **4. Lessons:**

**a. Don't think you are so strong that you will not abandon serving the Lord.** Anyone can abandon the Lord because everyone's faith can become weak. Instead, feed on the Word and Sacraments so your soul will be strong.

**b. Sometimes the young have more courage than the old.** It depends on how much you feed on God's Word. Age doesn't make you better or stronger. God's Word and God's Holy Spirit do.

## **Conclusion:**

**Jesus was betrayed by his own friend**, Judas. **He was arrested by his own people** who should have protected him. **He was deserted by his own disciples**...even his closest ones. But he had come for the purpose of heading to the cross and he did.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. Who would endure betrayal, arrest, imprisonment, and desertion for you?** Who would love you enough to walk up Calvary's Hill and be nailed to a cross for you? **Only Jesus**. Only he wanted to do it and only he could do it...as a perfect sacrifice.

**2. Love him like you have never loved him.** The more you know him, the more you will love him.

**3. Get to know him more.** Know his inmost thoughts. Know what brings him joy. Then you can best serve him.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, your master is the Devil. He will pretend to care for you as he continues to lead you to hell. But if you want Jesus to be your master, he pays for your sins so you can be his child and he will take you to heaven when you die. Choose Christ.