



**August 9, 2020**

**Luke 22:47-53**

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, <sup>48</sup> but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

<sup>49</sup> When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" <sup>50</sup> And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

<sup>51</sup> But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? <sup>53</sup> Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns."

**COMMENTARY**

**22:47-48.** Knowing exactly where Jesus would be spending the night, Judas Iscariot led a group of Jesus' enemies to arrest Him. They are described as a mob because they carried swords and clubs. A kiss on the cheek was a common greeting between friends

and family. Thus Judas used his intimacy with Jesus and His disciples as a platform for betraying the Son of Man.

**22:49-51.** The apostles' earlier misunderstanding about wielding the sword now came to a climax. Luke did not name the apostle who cut off the ear of the high priest's slave, but Jn 18:10 discloses that it was Peter. Jesus immediately healed the man's ear, averting certain disaster if the mob had attacked Peter.

**22:52-53.** That Jesus was viewed as a criminal fulfilled Isa 53:12. Jesus' prior awareness of the time (this is your hour) and place (not in the temple complex) of His arrest indicates that everything was according to God's design even though the chief priests and elders were in league with the dominion of darkness (Satan and the demons) in carrying out the arrest.

## **MAIN POINT**

Jesus gave Himself fully to the will of God in order to bring hope and healing to sinful humanity.

## **INTRODUCTION**

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*

**What was the situation the last time someone came looking for you (i.e. you did something wrong at work, someone needed help, someone was angry, etc.)?**

**If you knew someone in authority was looking to confront you about something, how would you most likely respond: try to avoid them, worry in fear, take the initiative and go to them, something else?**

Jesus had taught and even performed miracles out in the open in Jerusalem, but He was never arrested because the authorities were afraid of the reaction of the crowds around Him. So Judas led them to the garden of Gethsemane, where they could arrest Him at night without the crowds around. In today's lesson, we'll examine the events surrounding Jesus' arrest that eventually led to His suffering and death for our salvation.

## **UNDERSTANDING**

*Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.*

- ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ LUKE 22:47-53.

**Why did the Pharisees want to take advantage of the night to arrest Jesus?**

**Why do you think such a formidable force was sent to arrest Jesus? What does this reveal about His reputation at that time?**

**Luke pointed out that along with the chief priests and the elders, a group of Roman officers accompanied Judas. This meant that both Jews and Gentiles played a part in Jesus' arrest. Why do you think Luke pointed this out? What does this detail tell us about Jesus' effect on people? About human nature?**

Judas' group included a detachment of Roman soldiers stationed in Jerusalem and some temple officials or temple guards from the Sanhedrin. Judas, the Roman soldiers, and the temple police must have appeared to be a formidable force, whatever their total number. This group was prepared for trouble and equipped to meet it. These verses illustrate the universal rejection of Jesus on the part of humanity. Historically, Jews have been labeled as Jesus' murderers. In this text we see that it was Jews and Gentiles that came to arrest Jesus, an illustration of hatred and enmity toward God on the part of the human race that's spoken of quite often in Scripture.

**What do you think you would have been feeling had you been one of the disciples with Jesus at the time of His arrest (i.e. fear, anger, disappointment, etc.)?**

**Considering Jesus' questions in verses 46 and 48, and His admonition in verse 51, how do you think Jesus was feeling about His disciples in this moment?**

**Read John 18:1-9. What insight does John's account of Jesus' arrest give you about how Jesus was feeling about His disciples (vv. 8-9)?**

**Why did John point out that Jesus knew what was going to happen to Him?**

**How does this change the impact of what happened to Jesus?**

**What enemy have you been tempted to strike violently against, as Peter struck against the high priest's servant?**

**What do you think Jesus would say to you if you were to do so?**

The refusal to meet force with force was used by Jesus as a sign of the true nature of His kingdom. In Matthew's account, Jesus said, "Put your sword back in its place ... for all who draw the sword will die by the sword" (Matt. 26:52). Luke adds that Jesus healed the servant's ear (Luke 22:51).

Jesus knew what was going to happen to Him; He came to earth for that very purpose. He willingly gave up His life. Though His disciples were caught off guard, Jesus was not. His petition on the disciples' behalf is unique to John. It shows that even in his hour of need, Jesus was thinking of the welfare of His followers. It also shows that the disciples were in danger of arrest because of their association with Jesus. This is evident from other stories in John, such as Peter's denial (18:15-27) and the disciples' hiding behind locked doors after the Crucifixion (20:19).

## **NEXT STEP**

*Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.*

**What "enemies" seem to be "coming for you"?**

**How can our group help you in prayer concerning them?**

**How does Jesus' willingness to obey God in going to the cross encourage and/or challenge you in your faith?**

**What sacrifices does God ask of us today, and what influence should the cross have on our response?**

## **PRAYER**

Praise Jesus for His commitment to the will of God, doing what was necessary to bring hope and healing to sinful humanity. Ask God to continue to open your heart more and more to appreciate the greatness of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.