



CAPITOL COMMISSION

The Traitor's Kiss

JUNE 1-3, 2011

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Matthew 26:47-56 *“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, His 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.”* (NKJV)

“JESUS THOUGHT MORE OF FULFILLING THE SCRIPTURES THAN OF BEING DELIVERED FROM THE HANDS OF WICKED MEN. NEITHER JEWISH BANDS NOR ROMAN ROPES COULD HAVE HELD HIM CAPTIVE IF HE HAD NOT BEEN UNDER THE BOND OF A MIGHTIER FORCE, EVEN THAT ETERNAL COVENANT INTO WHICH HE HAD ENTERED ON BEHALF OF HIS PEOPLE.”

CHARLES SPURGEON

How large was this “*great multitude*” that came to arrest Jesus? Why does Judas betray Christ with a kiss? How does Jesus respond to His betrayer? Why are the disciples armed? Who is the disciple that almost committed murder? What is the significance of the servant being that of the high priest? Does Jesus give a principle here regarding the defense of His kingdom? How many is twelve legions of angels? What is the vital thing that is emphasized twice in this passage?

FOCUS ON FUTURE SATELLITE BIBLE STUDIES:

- JUNE 15-17: MATTHEW 26:57-68 *THE UNLAWFUL, UNJUST TRIAL OF JESUS CHRIST*
- JUNE 22-24: MATTHEW 26:57-68 *THE REPENTANCE OF A LEADER IN SIN*

Jesus had “*learned obedience by the things which He suffered*” (Heb. 5:8) and the perfect Son of God had mysteriously increased His perfection as He viewed the infinite suffering before Him and submitted in prayer to the will of His Father in the olive press of Gethsemane. The drama of all time was about to unfold as all the players were in place and the script of the prophecies of Scripture from ages past would be fulfilled. About a thousand years earlier, prior to crucifixion becoming known to the Jews when they went into captivity, in Psalm 22:16-18, David prophesied what many in this group would soon do; “*For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all my bones. The look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.*” Thus the victorious Lamb of God willingly offered Himself to be arrested by this band.

“THERE IS A NECESSITY TO ALL THAT NOW HAPPENS, BUT IT IS NOT THE OUTWORKING OF A BLIND, INEXORABLE FATE. IT IS RATHER THE UNFOLDING OF THE ETERNAL COUNSEL OF GOD’S WILL, TO SAVE A PEOPLE FOR HIMSELF THROUGH THE MEDIATION OF HIS SON. IT MUST BE SO! NOT BECAUSE FATE DEMANDS IT, BUT BECAUSE OMNIPOTENT LOVE HAS DECREED IT.”

MARK ROSS

I. THE DECEIVER’S KISS MT. 26:47-50

Jesus was awakening the sleepy, prayerless disciples and before they can say any final words to Him, “*While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests*

BIBLE STUDY LOCATION INFORMATION

WEDNESDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – DENNYS ON RT. 1, 11:30AM – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS AT NOBLEWOOD PLAZA
THURSDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – RT. 10, IRONBRIDGE SPORTS PK, NOON – WYTESTONE PLAZA – 8TH & MAIN – 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – IN THE TIDEWATER AREA (CALL 804-683-2285 FOR SPECIFICS)

Virginia

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and elders of the people.” The Gospel writers do not call Judas vile names for his treason, they only magnify his position and opportunity and thereby the magnitude of his crime as “*one of the twelve.*” The “*great multitude*” that he led to Jesus was made up of “*chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders*” (Lk. 22:52), and “*the cohort*” (Jn. 18:3) which was a tenth of a legion of Roman soldiers. When added up, it must have been a group of about a thousand men armed with “*swords and clubs.*” Jesus took the initiative and “*went forward and said to them, ‘Whom are you seeking?’ They answered Him, ‘Jesus of Nazareth.’ ‘Now when He said to them, ‘I Am He,’ they drew back and fell to the ground*” (Jn. 18:4, 6). When Jesus spoke His great name, “*I Am,*” suddenly the entire group was overcome with a sweeping power that laid them flat on the ground! Yet Judas had been paid to identify Jesus, so he ignored the supernatural power which had become commonplace to him and “*Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, ‘Greetings, Rabbi!’ and kissed Him.*” The word used for “*kissed*” is a superlative meaning that he kissed Jesus fervently or repeatedly. But instead of retaliating, Jesus probes the heart of Judas with a question, literally, “*Companion, why are you here?*” He nor the mob acknowledged Jesus as the Lord of Glory.

much later and he gives the servant’s name, Malchus, as well as the disciple, Peter (Jn. 18:10). The other disciples had asked, “*Lord, shall we strike with the sword?*” (Lk. 22:49) Impetuous Peter didn’t wait for a reply, but must have swung at the neck of the nearest enemy. Only Luke, the physician, documents this second miracle, “*And He touched his ear and healed him*” (22:51). Peter is gently rebuked by Christ telling him to put away his sword, “*for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.*” The kingdom of Christ does not need carnal weapons. Peter is told that unlimited protection could be immediately acquired in prayer, “*Do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?*” A legion was 6000 soldiers and only one angel killed 185,000 Assyrians (II Kings 19:35), so Peter’s sword became a hindrance rather than a help, as is still true of violent means.

“THE KINGDOM ADVANCES THROUGH THE PROCLAMATION OF HIS TRUTH AND BY THE EXCELLENT LIVES OF GOD’S PEOPLE. JESUS’ WEAPONS ARE SPIRITUAL. CHRISTIANITY IS AT ITS WORST WHEN BELIEVERS PICK UP WEAPONS TO ADVANCE ITS CAUSE.” DANIEL DORIANI

“JUDAS WAS SO CAUGHT UP IN HIS DECEITFUL DISPLAY THAT EVEN JESUS’ SOBERING WORDS, ‘JUDAS, ARE YOU BETRAYING THE SON OF MAN WITH A KISS?’ (LK.22:48) DID NOT DETER HIM. IT IS PROBABLE THAT JUDAS WAS NOW SO MUCH UNDER SATAN’S DOMINATION THAT HIS ACTIONS WERE NO LONGER VOLUNTARY.” JOHN MACARTHUR

II. THE DENYER’S CUT MT. 26:51-53

“*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.*” The synoptic Gospels conceal the identity of the swordsman, probably due to the possibility of liability, but John was written last and

III. THE DESPOTS’ CLUBS MT. 26:54-56

The King not only rebukes His disciples for their misconduct, He even rebukes His arrestors! “*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.*” The thief operated by subtlety and usually alone, but the robber was usually part of a band of thieving bandits who attacked their victims openly and overcame them by sheer force. Jesus and His disciples were no band of roving robbers. The question was intended for them to look at their vast mob and realize that their numbers proved that they knew they were trying to arrest God! Fulfilling God’s will and His Word was the real reason why Jesus allowed His arrest!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord of your life?
- 2) Are you dependent upon God in prayer rather than trying to handle problems on your own?
- 3) Is your life governed by a commitment to fulfill God’s will as revealed by His Word?