

### 53. Jesus Was Betrayed by Judas

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn that the way to have victory over temptation is by prayer. If we fail to pray, we will fail and yield to temptation when temptation comes. In our topic today, we are going to see what happened when Jesus was betrayed by Judas.

Jesus had just told His disciples that the time of His betrayal had come. Then Mark 14:43-45 says, “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. Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, ‘Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead *Him* away safely.’ As soon as he had come, immediately he went up to Him and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi!’ and kissed Him.” The disciples were now going to learn why Jesus had told them to watch and pray.

We see that Judas came with a large group to arrest Jesus. Many people feel that this group included between three hundred and six hundred men since it is called a great multitude. John 18:3 says, “Then Judas, having received a detachment *of troops*, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.” These men came ready to fight in case the disciples of Jesus tried to stop them from arresting Jesus. Their weapons included both swords and clubs. These men had been sent with Judas by the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Here, we see that most of the Jewish religious leaders were a part of this plan to destroy Jesus. The chief priests were Sadducees, and most of the scribes were Pharisees. The elders were the seventy men from both groups who were known as the Sanhedrin.

Judas had told this group of men how he would betray Jesus to them, so they would know which of the men to arrest since it was dark. Judas said that he would betray Jesus with a kiss. We see that Jesus spoke to Judas as he came toward him. Matthew 26:50 says, “But Jesus said to him, ‘Friend, why have you come?’” Luke 22:47-48 says, “And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him. But Jesus said to him, ‘Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?’” Jesus knew Judas was not giving Him a kiss that showed love. Yet, Jesus still called Judas, friend. Then, Jesus asked if Judas was betraying Him with a kiss. Here, we see that Jesus loved Judas just as He loved every other person, even though He knew exactly what Judas was doing. We see that Judas then walked up to Jesus and said to Him “Rabbi, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

Judas later recognized that Jesus still had a genuine love for him and could not live with the guilt of his conscience. Matthew 27:3-5 says, “Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, ‘I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.’ And they said, ‘What *is that* to us? You see *to it!*’ Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.” Judas could not live with his conscience, so we see that he committed suicide.

After Judas kissed Jesus, Mark 14:46-49 says, “Then they laid their hands on Him and took Him.

And one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.’” The men with Judas faced no struggle by Jesus when they arrested Him. However, that was not true as far as one of the disciples was concerned.

We read that one of the disciples immediately drew his sword. He made an immediate attack on the servant of the high priest. As he swung the sword, he cut off the ear of the servant. Luke 22:49-51 says, “When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, ‘Lord, shall we strike with the sword?’ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus answered and said, ‘Permit even this.’ And He touched his ear and healed him.” Because Luke was a doctor, he mentioned that it was the right ear of the servant. We also see that the disciples asked a question but did not wait for Jesus to answer the question. When Jesus did answer, He said, “Permit even this.” Then, Jesus showed His great compassion to the servant of the high priest by touching his ear and healing him.

Matthew tells us what Jesus said to the disciple. Matthew 26:52-54 says, “But Jesus said to him, ‘Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?’” Here, we see that Jesus made it clear that those who depend on the sword will eventually die by the sword. Many religions have used the sword to spread their religions. In contrast, Jesus offers eternal life as a free gift to all who will receive Him by repentance and faith. Jesus also said that He could ask the Father and the Father would immediately supply Him with twelve legions of angels. One legion was about six thousand in number, so twelve would be about seventy-two thousand angels. It only took one angel to destroy all of the oldest children in Egypt at the time of the Exodus. Jesus then said that what was happening must happen the way it happened in order to fulfill the Scriptures.

Finally, John 18:10-11 says, “Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter, ‘Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?’” John wrote the book of John long after the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke were written. As a result, Peter had already died by the time John wrote. John also knew Peter much better than the others, so he felt free to share his name, since the Romans could no longer do anything to Peter for his crime of attempted murder. In addition, Jesus had also destroyed the evidence by healing the ear of the servant, so there was no evidence the ear had been removed. John was known to the high priest, so John also knew that Malchus was the name of the servant who had lost his ear and then had it healed.

Jesus also questioned those who arrested Him. Jesus asked if they were looking for a robber since they had brought swords and clubs to arrest Him. Jesus said that He had been in the temple every day since arriving in Jerusalem, so it would have been easy to arrest Him without treating Him like a robber. This was a gentle rebuke of their fear. Mark 14:1-2 says, “After two days it was the Passover and *the Feast* of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how

they might take Him by trickery and put *Him* to death. But they said, ‘Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people.’” The religious leaders had not arrested Jesus in the temple, because they feared the people. However, there was a much more important reason. Jesus said that they had treated Him like a robber so the Scriptures would be fulfilled. Isaiah 53:12 says, “Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” By treating Jesus like a robber, they fulfilled this verse.

Once Jesus healed the servant of the high priest, and spoke these words, the disciples let fear take control of their lives. They became afraid that they would also be arrested. Mark 14:50-52 says, “Then they all forsook Him and fled. Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around *his* naked *body*. And the young men laid hold of him, and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.” We see that all of the disciples, including Peter, fled. He had forgotten the bold statement he had made just a few hours earlier, when he said, in Luke 22:33, “‘Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.’” Peter was now depending on his own strength, and he acted totally out of fear along with the rest of the disciples.

Mark records one event that was not mentioned by any of the other disciples. He wrote about what happened to a certain young man that night. He was probably writing about himself, and an event that he remembered very vividly from that night. Acts 12:12 says, “So, when he had considered *this*, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.” Here, we see that Mary, the mother of Mark, had a house in Jerusalem where the disciples gathered for prayer after the church began. Some think that this may have actually been the location of the Last Supper where Peter and John had prepared the Passover.

If that is the case, Judas may have led the mob to that house before he went to the garden thinking that Jesus might still be there. If so, Mark may have quickly wrapped a sheet around him and followed the mob to see what was going to happen. Whoever it was, we see that some of the men who arrested Jesus grabbed this young man wrapped in a linen cloth. They had a better hold on the cloth than they had of the man wrapped in the cloth. That is why verse 52 says, “And he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.” This young man was not concerned about how he looked. He just wanted to escape.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to understand, and be able to explain, the tragic life and death of Judas. Here was a man who had every opportunity to get to know the love Jesus had for him, but he also had a heart that was deceitful and desperately wicked. We see the tragic results of such a sinful heart. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children understand the hearts of rebellious people.