



Matthew 26:47-56

- Matt. 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.
- Matt. 26:48 Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him.”
- Matt. 26:49 Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed Him.
- Matt. 26:50 But Jesus said to him, “Friend, why have you come?” Then they came and laid hands-on Jesus and took Him.
- Matt. 26:51 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.
- Matt. 26:52 But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.
- Matt. 26:53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?
- Matt. 26:54 How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?”
- Matt. 26:55 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.
- Matt. 26:56 But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

Observations & Discussion

1. In vs. 47 Matthew tells us that “a great multitude” armed with swords and clubs came to arrest Jesus. John tells us how that it was “detachment” (John 18:3)—or literally 600 troops! What did the religious leaders and the Romans misunderstand about Jesus’ mission?

2. Read vs. 49; what title did Judas use to greet Jesus? What does that title mean?

Now record the title each of the people listed below ascribed to Jesus.

The blind man that Jesus healed (John 9:38)

Martha (John 11:21)

Mary (John 11:32)

Thomas (John 20:28)

The thief on the cross (Luke 23:42)

Peter (Matthew 16:16)

By the way, there is no record in the Gospels that Judas ever addressed Jesus by the titles used in the examples you just studied. So, based on what you’ve just read what would you say was the fundamental problem with Judas’ view of Jesus?

3. What’s the fundamental problem of people today who view Jesus as Judas did? And, what’s the consequence for the person who only views Jesus this way?

4. Vs. 51 tells us that one of the disciples cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant. John 18:10 informs us that disciple was Peter—big surprise! What did Peter misunderstand about Jesus’ mission?

5. Over the centuries the Church has often used violence in an attempt to advance the Gospel. In your opinion is that right or wrong—and why do you believe that?