

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 51

Lesson 51 – The Arrest & Religious Trials; Peter's Denial; Death of Judas

Background:

In the last lesson we learned about Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. These were the last hours before He was arrested. It is interesting that the last thing Jesus was doing before He was arrested was spending time in prayer with His closest followers. In this lesson we will learn about the arrest and the first things that happened to Jesus after that fateful event.

Read: [Matthew 26:47-68](#); [Mark 14:43-65](#); [Luke 22:54-65](#); [John 18:1-18;25-27](#); [Matthew 27:3-10](#)

Read the Following Quote

"As we read the chapters which trace Jesus' last day, we need to remember that Christ went to the cross knowing His death would mean for you and me. Jesus suffered willingly. And He Himself the diving commitment to forgive us, and to make us new."
[Lawrence O. Richards](#)

Questions:

Did Jesus go to the cross willingly? Why is this important?

Scripture Passage: [Matthew 26:47-68](#)

Note: We will focus on the Matthew 26 passage but refer to the other passages also to provide further details.

Jesus Arrested

1. What happened while Jesus was still speaking with His disciples about prayer? (Verses 47-50) Why do you think Jesus said, "Do what you came for, friend." How might you feel if you were one of the disciples when Jesus was arrested? How do you think Jesus felt?

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2. What did one of the disciples do when Jesus was arrested? (verse 51) Which disciple was this? (compare John 18:10) What did Jesus tell the disciple to do? What reason did Jesus give for not allowing His disciples to fight back? (verses 52-54)

3. What did Jesus say to those who came to arrest Him? Why do you think that they arrested Jesus at night? How does the arrest of Jesus fulfil any prophecies? What did the disciples do now? What do you think you would have done? How do you usually respond when people criticize Jesus?

Jesus Before the Sanhedrin

4. What did the guards do with Jesus after they had arrested him? What did Peter do? (Verses 57-58) Why do you think they took Jesus to the high priest? What would you have done if you were Peter? Do you think he was wise to follow?

5. Discuss verses 59-61. What were the religious leaders trying to do? Did they have any success? Who came forward? Why do you think they were having trouble finding satisfactory witnesses?

6. How did Jesus react when the high priest spoke to Him? How did the high priest try to pressure Jesus? Do you think there is a lesson for us here? How should we react when people pressure us about our faith in Jesus?

7. How did Jesus respond when the high priest asked Jesus directly if He was "the Messiah, the Son of God"? What was the answer that Jesus gave? Why do you think Jesus answered like this? Read [Daniel 7:9-10,13](#). What do you know about Daniel and his prophecy? Who is the Son of Man?

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8. How did the high priest respond to the answer that Jesus gave? Caiaphas the high priest is the top religious leader. Why do you think a religious leader would be so determined to kill Jesus?

Peter in the Courtyard

9. Read [John 18:15-18; 25-27](#). What was Peter doing while Jesus was taken into the high priest's house? List the different individuals who talked to Peter. Who did they think Peter was? How did Peter respond? What happened after Peter denied knowing Jesus for the third time? Did this fulfil any prophecies? What might you have done if you were Peter? Have you ever denied Jesus? Is there forgiveness available if we deny Jesus?

Judas

10. Read Matthew 27:3-10. Describe what happened to Judas after he betrayed Jesus. Was there forgiveness for Judas? Compare Peter and Judas. How were they similar and how were they different? Where are they both today?

Suggested Prayer:

"Lord Jesus, You were arrested but I was set free. You, my Lord Jesus, were scourged and crucified. I deserved to be thrown in to prison for my rebellion against God. I have wasted so much of the life you have given me. Sometimes I have stood on the side of Your enemies, like Judas. Other times, I have denied you like Peter. You knew this would happen, but You died in my place anyway.

The sentence you suffered, Lord, was my sentence for all my evildoings. I know my guilt and I thank You, my Lord Jesus, that you bore my punishment for me. Help me to come to you in repentance. I accept the mercy and forgiveness You offer me. May Your name forever be glorified!"

For Further Reading: [Could Judas Have Been Forgiven by Jesus?](#)

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