

Message #94**Matthew 26:47-56**

As we look down through these verses, we may notice that twice (v. 54, 56) it is revealed that the things which happened to Jesus Christ happened as a fulfillment of Scripture.

THE BETRAYAL OF JESUS CHRIST, WHICH LED TO HIS CRUCIFIXION, WAS ALL PART OF THE PLAN OF GOD TO FULFILL PROPHETIC SCRIPTURES THAT PREDICTED THAT JESUS WOULD DIE FOR THE SINS OF ISRAEL, AND FOR THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD.

This of course was the big problem with Israel; she did not want to admit that she needed a Savior, she wanted a king. Israel did not believe she needed to be saved from sin, but be saved from political oppression. Now Matthew's narrative account of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus Christ is given in the Gospel that presents Jesus Christ as King. As we shall see, He was still functioning as King all through the events of this passage.

FACT #1 – Jesus is betrayed by Judas, who brings a large group with him. **26:47-49**

Verse 47 opens with the words “while He was still speaking.” What Jesus was saying to the disciples He had just woke up from their sleep was that the time had come for Him to be betrayed (26:45-46). Although what is about to happen takes the disciples by surprise, it does not take Jesus by surprise for He was just telling them exactly what was going to happen.

(Detail #1) - The betrayer is Judas. **26:47a**

Judas was one of the 12. He had been part of Christ's inner circle. There is nothing that hurts more than when you are betrayed by a close associate.

(Detail #2) - Judas was accompanied by a large number of armed people. **26:47b**

The word for “sword” used in this context describes a short sword, a large knife (like a big Bowie knife or Rambo knife). There are three words used for sword in Greek: 1) μαχαίρα=short sword, large knife; 2) ρομφαία=large, broad sword, like a military sword; 3) ξίφος=sword for thrusting. The sword here is number one. The preposition “from” chief priests and elders is one that means from, alongside of. These religious frauds came to Jesus with their armed guards. They were alongside of the people carrying weapons.

(Detail #2) - Judas agreed to betray Jesus with a kiss. **26:48-49**

Now when Judas approaches Jesus, he says, “Hail, Rabbi,” which is a salutation that actually means to be of good cheer. The Greek verb kiss, in **verse 49**, means that Judas gave Jesus a very fervent, friendly kiss (Smith, p. 240). In other words, he made a point of making sure everyone saw who it was he was identifying.

Here is a sad but true lesson to learn—just because one does something externally positive for you, does not mean his heart is with you. Just because one appears to care about you, does not mean the person really does and is loyal to you.

FACT #2 – Jesus responds to Judas. **26:50a**

Jesus identifies Judas as “friend.” It is interesting that the word Jesus uses for “friend” is not the typical Greek word φίλος (philos), which speaks of a beloved friend (John 15:13-15), but εταρε (heteros), which means a companion different than a close friend (Smith, p. 182). This word is used three times in the N.T., all of which are in Matthew. This does not mean this person is a friend of Jesus in the sense he will go to heaven (i.e. Matt. 22:12).

FACT #3 – Christ’s disciple responds to the threat against Jesus. **26:50b-51**

Now we may immediately notice that when some grabbed Jesus, Peter drew a sword (Christ’s disciples were armed, at least two of them—Luke 22:36-38) and Peter pulled out his sword and swung it at a man’s head, whose name was Malchus (John 18:10), and he missed and cut off his ear. I am fully convinced Peter intended to kill Malchus for laying his hand on Jesus. We may notice that the only Gospel writer who tells us which disciple this was is John. One reason for this is that John was written after Peter had already been killed. The other disciples told the story, but they protected the identity of Peter so more hostility would not be aimed at Him. Say what you want about Peter (emotional, irrational, explosive, fickle), but he was a loyal friend of Jesus Christ who, on the spur of the moment, would fight to the death for Jesus Christ.

FACT #4 – Jesus responds to His disciple. **26:52-54****(Response #1)** - Put your sword away. **26:52a**

He doesn’t tell Peter to get rid of his sword, He just says to put it back.

(Response #2) - Those who take up the sword will perish by the sword. **26:52b**

Jesus is telling Peter if you don’t put your sword up, you will die right here, right now.

(Response #3) - Jesus could have appealed to His Father and 12 legions of angels would immediately come to His rescue. **26:53**

These armed thugs would be no match for the angelic forces of God. Jesus had all heavenly forces at His disposal and He could have summoned them.

(Response #4) - Jesus gives the reason why He is allowing this to happen. **26:54**

Jesus is allowing this to happen to Him to fulfill Scripture. Jesus Christ must suffer and die for our sins and the way it happens is by one betraying Him and turning Him over to godless authorities.

FACT #5 – Jesus responds to the multitude. **26:55-56a**

Jesus said to the crowd, why did you come out to get me with all of these weapons, why didn’t you seize me when I was in the temple? Well the answer to that question is: 1) They had nothing for which they could charge Jesus; 2) They were afraid that some loyalists would retaliate against them. Jesus informs them that this is all happening to Me to fulfill Scripture.

FACT #6 – All Jesus' disciples flee. **26:55-56b**

Christ is all alone at this moment in fulfilling the prophetic plan of God.