

The Betrayal of Jesus

Mark 14:43-52

Context: During the final evening of Jesus, after the Last Supper, Jesus goes to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane to prepare for the cross.

As you observe the betrayal of Jesus...

I. _____ Judas' title and associates (vs. 43)

- A. Mark simply calls Judas "one of the twelve." Judas is given this title in all of the gospels (Matthew 26:14, 47; Luke 22:47; John 6:71). "Especially in this context, such a simple description actually heightens the evil of his crime more than any series of derogatory epithets or negative criticisms could do." John MacArthur.
- B. Judas brought with him a large crowd of Roman soldiers that included the chief priests, scribes, and elders from the Sanhedrin Jewish ruling body.
- C. John 18:3 tells us that Judas came accompanied by a "band of men and officers". A "band" of men refers to a Roman "cohort" which numbered some 600 men when at full strength.

II. _____ the depravity of Judas (vs. 44-45)

- A. "In addition to being a special act of respect and affection, this kind of kiss was a sign of homage in Middle East culture. Judas could not have chosen a more despicable way to identify Jesus, because he perverted its usual meaning so treacherously and hypocritically." (MacArthur Study Bible)
- B. "Judas's act of betrayal was vile. With a kiss—an act of kindness, friendship, intimacy—he handed over the Son of God to those who hated him." (Tony Evans)

III. _____ the disciples flee (vs. 46-51)

- A. Mark records in verse 50 that they all left Jesus and fled.
- B. As for the man who fled away naked in verse 51, "This incident is recorded only in Mark's Gospel, leading many commentators to think that Mark himself, the author of this Gospel, was this young man, but that out of modesty he did not include his own name." (ESV Study Bible)