

Mathew 26:47-75.

I. (47-50) Jesus is betrayed.

There are no more hollow, hypocritical words in the Bible than "Greetings, Rabbi!" in the mouth of Judas. The loving, heartfelt words of Jesus - calling Judas "Friend" - stand in sharp contrast.

Proverbs 27:6 - Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

II. (51-56) Jesus is arrested.

We know from John 18:10 that this unnamed swordsman was Peter.

Had Jesus wanted Divine help at this moment, He could have had it. There were **more than twelve legions of angels** ready to come to His aid. "A legion is judged to be six thousand foot and seven hundred horsemen. (Trapp) Remember that one angel killed up to 185,000 soldiers in one night (2 Kings 19:35).

With his sword, Peter accomplished very little. He only cut off one ear, and really just made a mess that Jesus had to clean up by healing the severed ear (Luke 22:51). At this point, all the disciples scattered, running for their own safety. *All of you will be made to stumble because of Me (Matthew 26:31).*

III. (57-58) Jesus before Caiaphas.

Before Jesus came to the home of **Caiaphas** (the official high priest) He was led to the home of Annas, who was the ex-high priest, for scrutiny. Peter was determined to prove wrong Jesus' prediction that He would deny and forsake Jesus at His death.

IV. (59-68) Jesus before the Sanhedrin.

This nighttime arrest and trial was illegal according to the Sanhedrin's own laws and regulations. According to Jewish law:

i. All criminal trials must begin and end in the daylight.

ii. Only decisions made in the official meeting place were valid.

iii. Criminal cases could not be tried during the Passover season.

iv. Only an acquittal could be issued on the day of the trial. Guilty verdicts had to wait one night to allow for feelings of mercy to rise.

v. All evidence had to be guaranteed by two witnesses, who were separately examined and could not have contact with each other.

vi. A false witness was punishable by death. Nothing was done to the many false witnesses in Jesus' trial.

vii. A trial always began by bringing forth evidence for the innocence of the accused, before the evidence of guilt was offered. This was not the practice here.

"These were the Sanhedrin's own rules, and it is abundantly clear that, in their eagerness to get rid of Jesus, they broke their own rules." (Barclay)

This is a remarkable testimony to the life and integrity of Jesus. For having lived such a public life and performed such a public ministry, it was difficult to find even false testimony against Him.

After all the false witnesses had their say, Jesus was finally charged with threatening to destroy the temple (as in a modern day bomb threat). Clearly, Jesus said "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). But this glorious prophecy of His resurrection was twisted into a terrorist threat. John 2:21 makes it clear that He was speaking of the temple of His body.

There are people in the Bible lived such a righteous life that nothing evil was found in them, only godly reputation. Daniel is one of them.

Jesus sat silently until He was commanded by the office of the high priest to answer the accusations against Him.

Jesus could have gathered a multitude of witnesses in His defense here; the people He taught, the people He healed, the dead risen, the blind who see, even the demons. *But Jesus opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth (Isaiah 53:7).*

Instead of defending Himself, Jesus simply testified to the truth. He was indeed the Christ, the Son of God. He answered as briefly and directly as possible. Jesus did add this one word of warning, that though they sit in unfair judgment of Him now, He will one day sit in righteous judgment of them.

Jesus was simply who He said He was. It is no crime for the Christ, the Son of God, to declare who He really is. Their verdict reveals the depths of man's depravity. God,

in total perfection, came to earth, lived among men, and this was man's response was spitting, hitting and slapping.

Spurgeon suggested some ways that men still spit in the face of Jesus.

- Men spit in His face by denying His deity.
- Men spit in His face by rejecting His Good News.
- Men spit in His face by preferring their own righteousness.
- Men spit in His face by turning away from Jesus.

V. (69-75) Peter denies Jesus three times.

Peter was not questioned before a hostile court or even an angry mob. Peter's own fear made a **servant girl** and **another girl** as hostile monsters in his eyes.

Peter's denial of Jesus grew worse. First, he merely lied; then he took an **oath** to the lie, then **he began to curse and swear**. Peter backslid, a decline from a spiritual experience once enjoyed.

Peter's weeping (godly sorrow) was the beginning of his repentance. The loving look of Jesus brought Peter to repentance. Luke tells us that just after the rooster crowed, *the Lord turned and looked at Peter* ([Luke 22:61](#)).

Romans 3:23 - *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

2 Corinthians 7:10 - *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*