





Arrested!

Matthew 26:36-57

Mark 14:32-52

Luke 22:39-54

John 18:1-14

Trial & Crucifixion

**The story of the arrest, trial, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus are so expansive that this lesson only covers a small portion of the story of the redemption that Jesus provided for us on the cross.*

This lesson picks up after the Lord's supper. Jesus has spent time telling his disciples many things, and that one of his disciples would betray him.

Jesus and his disciples crossed over the brook of Cedron (Kidron) and entered into the Garden of Gethsemane which is on the mount of Olives. The word Gethsemane means "olive press." John tells the reader that Judas knew this place, because Jesus and his disciples went there often. Jesus told his disciples to sit there while he went to pray, and told them to pray that they do not enter into temptation (Luke 22:40; Matthew 6:13).

This is a very difficult evening for Jesus.

He knows what he is about to face and he is very sorrowful, or grieved, and very heavy (distressed, troubled.) He told the disciples to wait there and watch. He went on a little further and fell down on the ground. He prayed to the Father that "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." Jesus was fully man and fully God. His humanity was like us, he knew what was coming and wanted to avoid it if at all possible. But his resolve was amazing. He was so dedicated to the Father and doing His will that he completely submitted to whatever was going to be necessary. After he prayed, an angel was sent to him from heaven to strengthen him (Luke 22:43). After this strengthening, he prayed more earnestly in agony, and his sweat fell as great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

The word Gethsemane means "olive press." In this garden, the weight of what was coming pressed on Jesus and his sweat flowed from him like olive oil flows as it is squeezed out from a press.

When he rose up from prayer, he went back to his disciples and found them asleep.

Luke's account says they were sleeping from sorrow; a study of the words here show that they were sleeping because they were exhausted from grief and sorrow, as if trying to escape. Jesus asks them why they were sleeping, and says, "Could you not watch with me for one hour?" And then again, three gospel accounts tell us that he told them watch and pray, or else they would enter into temptation.

He tells them that "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

He left his disciples again and prayed the same words. Then he came back and found the disciples sleeping again. Their eyes were heavy and they did not know how to answer him.

Then he left and went and prayed a third time, saying the same words. When he returned to the disciples he told them to take their rest because the hour had come for his betrayal.

He knew Judas was coming; he knew what was about to happen. He told the disciples to get up, it was time to go because the one that would betray him was near.

While he was still talking, Judas came to where they were, but he was not alone.

He came with a large number of people; the chief priests, scribes and elders were all with him. They came with lanterns and torches and were armed with weapons of swords and staves.



Arrested!

These clubs, or staves, were the beams or wooden poles that were used to carry the ark of the covenant. They were also used as a beam from which to suspend someone, or also used as a staff. They were always made of wood.

The people that were with Judas did not all recognize Jesus. Judas had told the officials beforehand that they would be able to identify him because the person he kissed would be Jesus, and he was the one they should take.

Judas approached Jesus and addressed him as “Master,” and then kissed him. Matthew’s account says that Jesus said, “Friend, why have you come?”

Luke’s account says he asked Judas why he betrayed him with a kiss.

John tells the reader that Jesus asked them who they were looking for. They responded, “Jesus of Nazareth.” To this, Jesus responded, “I am (he).”

What Jesus actually said was, “I am.”

Does this sound familiar? When Moses asked God his name as he was preparing to lead the people out of Egypt, God responded, tell them I AM has sent you (Exodus 3:14).

When Jesus responded this way, the people backed away and fell to the ground.

They did not understand what had happened, but there was so much power in the declaration that Jesus used; he is “I AM THAT I AM.”

Jesus IS Jehovah. He IS Lord. He IS ultimate power and authority.

Then Jesus asked them again, “Who do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” He said, I told you I am; if you’re looking for me then let these go their way (speaking of the disciples.). This was to fulfill the prophecy “of which you gave me I have lost none except the son of perdition” (or, destruction; John 17:12). Jesus seems to be referring back to an older prophecy which is possibly apocryphal but scholars are not clear on this reference.

The disciples are ready to defend Jesus. One of them asks, “Lord, shall we fight with our swords?” Peter, who is always quick to respond, did not wait for an answer.

He pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest.

This would definitely take precision to cut off someone’s ear without serious injury to their head.

Discuss:

This would have been quite chaotic.

Jesus and his disciples are in the garden, a large crowd of people show up ready to arrest Jesus, but are not sure which one he is.

Judas comes to betray Jesus with a kiss, and Jesus asks the crowd who they are looking for.

As if things are not bad enough, Peter cut off the right ear of the high priest’s servant, named Malchus.

These are the priests and synagogue leaders that are arresting Jesus - this would be like our church leaders taking weapons and arresting people.



Arrested!

Is Jesus glad that his disciples are trying to defend him? No. He tells them to put away their swords, and if they want to live by the sword they will die by the sword.

He tells all of them that he could ask God to send him more than twelve legions of angels to defend him.

But, he said, *“How would the scriptures be fulfilled?”*

A legion was over 6,000 angels. Jesus is saying that God could have sent him over 72,000 angels to defend him if he only asked. But, Jesus knew the importance of what was at stake. He is basically saying, if I did that, how would the scriptures be fulfilled. He knew that all of these things had been prophesied about him, and they had to come to pass.

So what happened to the man who lost his ear?

Jesus responded, “Enough of this.” Then he touched the man’s ear and healed him. The disciples were trying to fight the battle as if this was an earthly kingdom, with an earthly battle to fight. Jesus understood that this was not the answer; physical violence was not the solution to what is actually a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:12). Even in the midst of his being arrested, he had compassion on those around him and healed them.

There is an unusual note in Mark 14:51-52 that does not seem to be relevant to any other part of the story. It comes after Peter has cut off the ear of the servant.

Jesus remarks that he was with them daily in the temple, and that they could have arrested him when he was there with them.

Then all of his disciples run away out of fear that they too may be arrested.

Then Mark tells about a young man who followed Jesus after the disciples left. This young man was naked, having a linen cloth around his body. But when they arrested Jesus, they laid hands on this young man. When they tried to grab him, he left the linen cloth, and ran away naked.

No explanation is given as to who this young man is or what is happening, but there are a few theories. One theory is that when Jesus said “I AM,” that there was so much power that some people were resurrected from nearby graves. This young man appears to be wearing cloths that were wrapped around dead corpses, and this could possibly explain this odd bit of information placed into the story. And perhaps a reference back to the nakedness of man in the garden to fulfill a spiritual parallel.

Then Jesus is taken away, to be put on trial and crucified.

Jesus in the Story



Jesus came to fulfill the scriptures.

This means that there were prophecies spoken by prophets many years before Jesus that told who he would be, and the things that he would do. They were spoken in mysteries like a puzzle because if they would have been easy to understand then the devil would have never crucified Jesus.

The crucifixion of Jesus was essential to the redemption of mankind (Mark 4:11; Romans 16:25-26; 1 Corinthians 2:6-8; Colossians 1:26).

We have to look closely to see what was prophesied, and what was fulfilled.

In the garden, the crowd says they are looking for “Jesus of Nazareth.”

Jesus responds, “I AM.”

There is so much power in this response that the crowd goes backwards and falls down. This is paralleled with Moses when he asks God what his name is. God’s response is, “I AM THAT I AM,” and tells Moses, tell the children of Israel that “I AM” has sent you. Jesus is the I AM. He is God. He tells the people that He and the Father are one (John 10:30).

This prophecy is given in Psalm 27:2, where it says, “when the wicked came against me.....my enemies and foes stumbled and fell.” This is a prophecy of Jesus as the Messiah and tells of the crowd stumbling and falling when they came against Jesus.

In Matthew 26:50, Jesus says to Judas, “Friend, why have you come?” This parallels the prophecy in Psalm 41:9 where it speaks of “my own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me” (betrayed).

Jesus, who is the last Adam, (1 Corinthians 15:45), corrected what man ruined in the garden. Jesus obediently submitted to the will of the Father over his own will in direct contrast to the disobedience of man in a garden that brought sin into the world.

Lesson Questions & Memory Verses

41. The Wicked Farmers

1. What did the farmers do to the first servant that the man sent?
2. What did they do to the other servants?
3. Who did the man finally decide to send?
4. Where did the servants they take the son?
5. What did the servants do to the son?

Isaiah 28:16

...Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily.

42. Kingdom Business

1. What did the first servant do with the money?
2. Where did the last servant put the money?
3. What did the king do with the last servant's money?

Luke 19:26

For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

43. Improperly Dressed

Read John 14:6

1. Jesus is always full of?
2. Jesus is not death, he is always?
3. What is the ONLY way to get to God the Father?

Isaiah 61:10

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

44. Arrested!

1. In Ezekiel 1:28, what happened when he saw the glory of the Lord?
2. In Psalm 41:9, who betrayed (lifted up his heel)?
3. In Matthew 26:50, what did Jesus call Judas?

Psalm 103:2-4

Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies...



