

The Betrayal of Jesus (Mark 14:32-72)

The betrayal of Jesus was a wicked and sinister scheme. It took place in the black of night in a garden on the outskirts of Jerusalem, a place where Jesus often met with His disciples for prayer. For Judas Iscariot, the betrayer, the transaction was worth the sum of thirty pieces of silver. Inspired by Satan, and greedy for the money, he ran to alert the Jewish leaders of Christ's whereabouts. The high priest was eager to seize Jesus and hastily assembled a large contingent of guards armed with swords, clubs and lanterns. The sign Judas had given them was a kiss: "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him." After greeting Jesus in this manner the wicked work was done. The guard took Jesus, bound Him, and led Him away to the high priest.

The whole account of the betrayal is recorded in Mark 14. In this chapter you will also learn of the prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. This is a great chapter and one that will help you to see how important prayer is in following God's will for your life, and in overcoming evil.

POINTS TO PONDER:

A. JESUS PRAYS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE (V32-42)

- "Take this cup away from Me..." What distressed Jesus most was not the physical suffering He would have to endure, but the kind of death that He would die. See *Galatians 3:13*.

B. JESUS IS BETRAYED INTO THE HANDS OF THE JEWS (V43-52)

- What is the significance of Judas' greeting "Rabbi, Rabbi"? (See 1Corinthians 12:3- "No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.")

C. JESUS IS TRIED AND CONDEMNED BY THE JEWISH RULERS (V53-65)

- The *Council* (v55) was the Sanhedrin, the high court of the Jews. It was made up of seventy Chief Priests, Elders, and Scribes. It was the highest Jewish court of law.
- Read *Deuteronomy 17:6*. Did the Sanhedrin observe this command?

D. PETER DENIES JESUS IN THE COURTYARD OF THE HIGH PRIEST (V66-72)

- Peter wasn't prepared for this moment. Jesus had told him to watch and pray so that he would not fall into temptation. Instead of obeying Jesus, he slept. When the temptation came he fell.

CHALLENGE TO CHANGE:

When Jesus prayed, "Take this cup away from Me" (v36), He added these important words, "nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will." In the Garden, Jesus surrendered Himself completely to His Father's will. In your Christian walk, God wants you to do exactly the same. He wants you to always put His will before your own. This is what denying yourself is all about. Through the Holy Spirit you can put this into practice day by day. "Not what I will, but what You will." Make this your daily prayer!