

BIBLE READING DAY 44, MONDAY: APRIL 11

Jesus's Betrayal and Arrest

Matthew 26:47–56 (Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:2-11)

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas came—one of the twelve, along with a great crowd with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I shall kiss is the man. Seize him!”

And he came straight to Jesus and said, “Hail, Master!” and kissed him.

“Friend,” said Jesus, “what brings you here?”

Then the mob surrounded Jesus and laid hands on him and held him. Then Peter, one of the men with Jesus, drew his sword and stuck the servant of the High Priest, cutting off his ear. And Jesus said, “Allow me to do this,” and he touched his ear, and healed him.

“Put away your sword,” said Jesus, “for all who take up the sword will die by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will immediately send me more than twelve legions of angels? The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? But how then should the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?”

Then Jesus said to the crowd, “Have you come out to capture me with swords and clubs, as if I were a robber? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has come to pass, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. This is your hour, and the power of darkness.”

Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. A young man who was with them had on only a linen cloth around his body and as the other men grabbed him, he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.

Trial Before Jewish Authorities

Matthew 26:57–75; 27:1–2; Mark 14:53-72; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:12–27

Then the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews laid hold of Jesus and bound him and led him away first to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was High Priest that year. The High Priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

“I have spoken openly to the world,” replied Jesus. “I have continually taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews gather together, and I have said nothing secretly. Why ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I told them, for they know what I have said.”

Then one of the officers standing by slapped Jesus with the palm of his hand and said, “Is that the way you answer the High Priest?”

“If I have said anything wrong,” replied Jesus, “bear witness to the wrong. But if I have answered well, why do you strike me?”

Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas, the High Priest.

Then the chief priests and the whole Council sought false testimony against Jesus so they could put him to death; but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. But at last two of them came forward and said, “This man said, ‘I can destroy the temple of God and build it in three days.’”

Then the High Priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to offer? What is this that these men are testifying against you?"

But Jesus was silent. Then the High Priest said to him, "I charge you on oath by the living God, tell us whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

"I am," replied Jesus. "Hereafter, I tell you, you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Almighty and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the High Priest tore his robes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need have we of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What is your decision?"

"He deserves death!" they replied.

Then they spat in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, Messiah! What is the name of the man who hit you?"

And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in. Peter went in and sat down among the guards to see the outcome.

Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter was below in the courtyard, standing with them and warming himself. One of the servant girls of the high priest came and when she saw Peter warming himself by the fire, she looked intently at him and said, "This man was also with Jesus of Galilee." But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you are saying."

So, Peter went out to the porch by the gateway, and another girl, one who had seen him at the gate, saw him and said, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." But he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" and a rooster crowed.

Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean, for your speech betrays you." Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know this Man of whom you speak!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."

And he went out and wept bitterly.

"I wonder how it makes You feel
when the prodigal won't come home
I wonder how it makes You feel
when he'd rather be on his own
I wonder what it's like for You
when a lamb has gone astray
I wonder what it's like for You
when Your children disobey
I wonder how it makes You feel
when no one seeks Your face
I wonder how it makes You feel
when they give up in the race
I wonder what it's like for You
when they willingly disobey
I wonder what it's like for You
when they willingly walk away.
It must be like another
thorn struck in your brow
It must be like another
close friend's broken vow
It must be like another
nail right through your wrist
It must be just like
Just like Judas' kiss."

Bob Hartman
Judas' Kiss

Approximate Timeline of Jesus's Public Ministry

EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	FIRST PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FIRST BOOTHS	WINTER	SECOND PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	FINAL PASS-OVER
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DEVOTIONAL DAY 44 (MONDAY APRIL 11)

Friend- What Brings You Here?

Based on Matthew 26:47–75, 27:1-2; Mark 14:43-72; Luke 22:47-71; John 18:2-27

I am one of nine children born to Roberta and Harold Wallace. We all, on some occasion, manage to try “too hard” in taking care of our dear widowed mother. I think one brother upset her when he went and made “pre-arrangements” for her funeral without her consent. A sister once paid someone to come “sit” with mom. Mom ran her off! I upset her once when I went to her home to do some repairs. The roof had leaked and damaged some items stored in a particular room. To clean up the damage I had to take a trailer load of her treasures to the dump. My actions hurt her feelings and it took a while to feel forgiven.

As I read the text for today, I thought about how many in the story thought they were doing the right thing.

Judas is the villain, but some scholars have suggested that he was just trying to push Jesus into starting a political revolution. He certainly regretted his actions later.

The unnamed military men would say “we were just following orders and doing our sworn duty.”

The officers of the High Jewish Court all look absurd to us. But they were trying to do what they always had done, protect Judaism from change. Their actions were terrible, but they thought that they were doing the right thing.

Peter resorts to violence when he cuts off the ear of the arresting soldiers. I admire his bravery, but Jesus did not appreciate the gesture.

Later Peter risks arrest by hanging around the courthouse, but then loses his nerve at the accusation of a slave girl.

I think he would relate to the modern phrase, “shoot first, ask questions later.”

When Jesus was determined to go to Jerusalem, Peter tried to talk Him out of it (See Day 20, Matthew 16:23). Jesus looked right at His closest disciple and rebuked him with the harshest of rebukes:

*Jesus turned and said to Peter,
“Get behind me, Satan!
You are a stumbling block to me;
you do not have in mind the concerns of God,
but merely human concerns.”*

Holy Smokes! Peter was a faithful follower of Jesus. Peter had left everything to follow Jesus. And yet in the instant that he tried to redirect Jesus, he is called “Satan.” This tells me that no one is exempt from “switching teams”, even with the best of intentions.

The only way to not get in the “way” of Jesus is to stay “behind” Jesus. He leads, we follow! He commands, we obey. And when He is silent? We wait. Like an army, on high alert, waiting for orders.

I finish this thought with the words that Jesus spoke to Judas just before His arrest. “Friend, what brings you here?” Not everyone who acts with good intentions finds success. It is the one listens, and then acts, that finds a reward.

Dear God, our greatest and best intentions are nothing if we are not fully and squarely standing behind You and following You. Lead us, and we will follow. Command us and we will obey. And when we get in front, rebuke us with all the grace that You can give! In Jesus’s Name. Amen.

-By Dr. Randy Wallace

WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:

WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?

PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?

ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs)

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