

MATTHEW: THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

LESSON 60 – ARRESTED, TRIED, AND DISOWNED – MATTHEW 26:47-26:75

Read Matthew 26:47-56

1. The treachery of Judas is emphasized by Matthew. How does Matthew remind us that Judas is in control of his actions and not just a puppet of the religious authorities?
2. A traitor is a repulsive criminal. A friend found in betrayal is distasteful. How did Jesus make an effort to reach Judas' heart (v. 50)?
3. In 26:51 we learn about a disciple that struck a high priest's slave, identified in John 18:10 as Peter, this action by Peter shows that he still does not understand how the kingdom of God will arrive through Jesus. How does Jesus' response demonstrate both the humility and authority of Jesus in the midst of this moment of betrayal?
4. A common motif in Matthew is that the scriptures will be fulfilled in Jesus. Read Zechariah 13:7 and identify how this arrest fits into this fulfillment.

Read Matthew 26:57-68

5. The night trial of Jesus began when He stood before the high priest and the court of elders and teachers of the law. The verdict, by custom and law, cannot be rendered in the night so 27:1 points out that they wait until the arrival of the morning to determine the death sentence. Already in v. 59 what verdict is expected?
6. Deuteronomy 19:15 states that the evidence of two or three witnesses was needed to sustain a charge against a person. How was Isaiah 53:7 fulfilled in the trial of Jesus?
7. Jesus answered Caiaphas in v. 64. Read Psalm 110:1 and Daniel 7:13 to understand Jesus' response.
8. Stealth and use of force were not necessary to arrest Jesus, yet the arrest happened when Jesus was alone and they came with soldiers. Read 21:9-11, 15, 26; 26:5 and explain why they used this secrecy and use of force to arrest Jesus.

Read Matthew 26:69-75

9. How had Jesus shown love for Peter? (Luke 22:31-32, 61)

10. Why did Peter cry when the rooster crowed (26:34)? What threat did Peter face that compelled him to deny Jesus?

11. The Bible presents heroes “warts and all” (e.g., Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon). We find blunt testimonies that reveal the weaknesses of the disciples. What does this mean about what we should expect of the disciples in the church today?