

MATTHEW:
THE GOSPEL
OF THE KINGDOM

Betrayed with a Kiss
Matthew 26:47-56

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Introduction:

- The setting - post-Last Supper, Garden of Gethsemane

2

The Betrayer Arrives - v.47

While he was still speaking,
Judas came,
one of *the twelve*,
and with him a *great crowd*
with *swords* and *clubs*,
from the chief priests
and the elders of the people.

3

The Betrayer's Sign - v.48-50

Now the *betrayer* ^(10x) had given them a sign, saying,
 "The one I will *kiss* is the man; seize him."
 And he came up to Jesus at once and said,
 "Greetings, *Rabbi*"
 And he [repeatedly] *kissed* him.
 Jesus said to him,
 "*Friend*, [do] what you came to do."
 Then they came up
 and laid hands on Jesus
 and seized him.

Jesus does not hurl the traitor from him nor use his omnipotent power to blast him. Jesus submits to this traitorous kissing; it is his Father's and his own will to accept all the indignities, shame, suffering, agonies men will heap upon him even unto death.
 ~Lenski

4

The Defender's Attempt - v.51

And behold, *one* of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his *sword* and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear.

Peter acts as though Jesus meant none of the things he said. His love does not listen and obey, it assumes to dictate and to rule.
 ~Lenski

5

Jesus' Rebuke - v.52-54

Then Jesus said to him,
 "Put your sword back into its place.
For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.
 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions ^(12 x 6k = 72,000) of *angels*?
 But how then should *the Scriptures* be fulfilled, that it must be so?"

This is the consciousness with which Jesus goes into his death: at any moment, at his simple word, the sky could blaze forth with a tremendous host of mighty angels, whose swords could annihilate all these or any other enemies of his. That is the real help Jesus can call. How silly for Peter to flash his little human sword!
 ~Lenski

6

Jesus' Question - v.55-56

At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,
"Have you come out as against a *robber*,
with swords and clubs to capture me?
Day after day I sat in the temple teaching,
and you did not seize me.
But all this has taken place
that *the Scriptures* of the prophets
might be fulfilled."
Then *all* the disciples left him and fled.

Here are the real forces at work in what
is taking place this night: God is
carrying out his prophetic plans. Jesus
is thus voluntarily putting himself into
his captors' hands. That and that alone
is why this army is scoring such a huge
victory against a single humble man!
But let these victors think of the part
they are playing in God's plan as
recorded in the Scriptures.
~Lanski

7

Applications

- Admire the Savior's faithful sacrifice for His unfaithful followers.
- Consider our response to the reality of false and failing disciples.
- Remember that even the wicked are used to accomplish the Plan of God.
- Pursue prayerfully the Lord's work in the Lord's way.

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