

Betrayed and Deserted

Matthew 26:46-56

I. THE COWARDICE OF MEN

A. The Cover of Darkness (John 3:19-20; Lk 22:53)—*The fear of exposure (bad conscience)*

B. The Guise of a Greeting (48-50)—*lip service, hypocrisy*

1. **The Rouse of Respect** (Mat 15:7-8)—*“Rabbi,” title of respect among religious Jews*

2. **The Appearance of Affection** (Prov 27:6)—*a kiss, common courtesy among friends, relatives, or to a person of importance (subject to a king)*

C. The Support of a Crowd (47a, 55; Jn 18:3)—*The fear of man, safety in numbers*

D. The Desertion of a Friend (56b; Heb 2:14-15)—*The fear of death, run for your life*

→ *Our relationship with Jesus is secured by the strength of His love and faithfulness to us, not by the strength of our love and faithfulness to Him!*

II. THE CONFIDENCE OF JESUS (Jn 18:4-8)—*He fears neither man nor death.*

A. He Takes Charge—*Jesus is not passive; He’s directing the show.*

1. **He steps up** (46)—He goes to meet His betrayer

2. **He speaks up** (50, 52, 55)

a. He calls out Judas to stop the charade.

b. He commands Peter to put away his sword.

c. He confronts the crowd with the under-handed nature of their conduct.

B. He Knows His Power (53; Dan 3:16-18)—*we have access to this same power*

1. **The Favor of God**—*My loving, almighty Father*
 2. **The Resources of Heaven**—*The Angelic Host*
- C. **He Knows the Plan** (Mat 16:21; Mk 9:12; Act 4:23-31)—*He came to atone for our sins by offering Himself in our place.*
1. **He knows the Scripture** (54, 56)—*Jesus knows the plot. He wrote the script.*
 2. **He knows His mission** (Mat 20:28; Jn 12:27)—

III. **THE CENSURE OF THE SWORD** (52; 2 Corinthians 10:3-4)

- A. **The Wisdom of Man** (Mat 16:23; Isa 53:10-12 & 55:8-9.)—*doesn't know the plan of God*
- B. **The Weapons of the World** (2 Corinthians 10:3-4)
1. **Are not the weapons of the Church**—We may not use the tactics of the world to do the work of God.
 2. **Can only bring death**—Jesus brings life and healing.
 3. **Cannot bring about the Kingdom of God**—God has always been after our hearts.
 - a. **Coercion does not convert.**
 - b. **Faith cannot be forced.**
 - c. **Love must be freely chosen.**
- C. **Our Weapon of Choice** (Eph 6:12, 17; Rev 1:16 & 19:15, 21)—*the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God*