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The Arrest

Matthew 26:47–56; Mark 14:43–52;
Luke 22:47–53; John 18:2–12

“While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people” (Matthew 26:47).

Judas knew where Jesus would be. He told the Jewish leaders that he would lead them to Him. He knew that Jesus would be praying—but he did not know Jesus!

We know about Jesus, but do we really know Him? How could Judas not know Jesus? How can we not know Him? Is there a “Judas” lurking in all of us? We must read Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, and John 18 carefully.

The mob led by Judas arrived. Men in a mob lose their individuality. Hatred rejects thought. The armed mob was scared—scared to death of Jesus. They did not deny or doubt that Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. In fact, they had considered killing Lazarus too (John 12:10). Judas was their solution; he gave them an opportunity to find Jesus when He was not surrounded by a crowd of followers (Matthew 26:14–16; Mark 14:10, 11; Luke 22:3–5).

How amazing this is! Hundreds came heavily armed to arrest one unarmed prophet. Jesus stood out in the open, saying, "Here I am," and the mob fell back upon the ground! (See John 18:3–6.)

Judas had led this group to Jesus, yet he still called Jesus "Rabbi" (Matthew 26:49). Jesus still called him "friend" (Matthew 26:50). Was this sarcasm? Probably not. Did this aid in Judas' feeling remorse? Probably.

Peter, frightened, resorted to force. He drew his sword and cut off the right ear of Malchus! Peter knew how to use his sword. He knew upon whom he could use it (Malchus, a slave, not an official). He was saying, "You can kill us, but some of you will die too." Jesus told Peter to put away his sword and calmly restored Malchus' ear. (See Matthew 26:51, 52; Mark 14:47; Luke 22:50, 51; John 18:10, 11.)

We must examine the plight of Judas to keep us from his sin (Matthew 27:3–10). He returned the money he had received for betraying Jesus (thirty pieces of silver); it was now worthless to him. The betrayer had remorse that comes from pride, but he did not have repentance that comes from humility. He committed suicide.

Judas could see his mistake, but he could not see his Savior. He went out and hanged himself. No one even cut him down (Acts 1:15–19). Sin has terrible consequences. The traitor "turned aside to go to his own place" (Acts 1:25) and is never mentioned again in the Scriptures. Jesus said that he should never have been born (Matthew 26:24; Mark 14:21)!

*The cross . . .
there is no other way!*