

Doubtless Living!

THE GOSPEL OF
LUKE
That you may have certainty!

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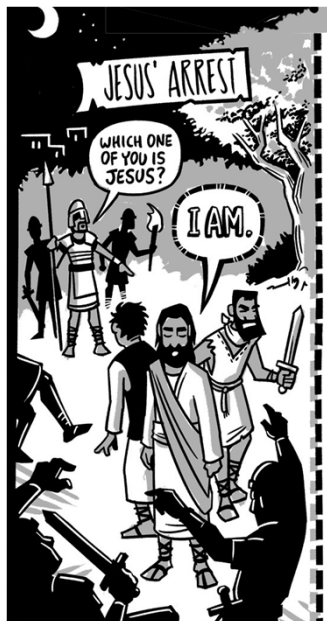
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created by the Bible Project

BETRAYED WITH A KISS

SUBTERFUGE IN THE
GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Luke 22:47-53

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Garden Betrayal

Luke 22:47-53

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, suddenly a mob came, and one of the Twelve named Judas was leading them. He came near Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus said to him, **“Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”**

⁴⁹ When those around him saw what was going to happen, they asked, “Lord, should we strike with the sword?” ⁵⁰ Then one of them struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus responded, **“No more of this!”** And touching his ear, he healed him. ⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, temple police, and the elders who had come for him, **“Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a criminal? ⁵³ Every day while I was with you in the temple, you never laid a hand on me. But this is your hour — and the dominion of darkness.”**

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THE SETTING

- **Jesus and His disciples were in the Garden of Gethsemane atop the Mount of Olives.**
 - ❖ Jesus led them there to pray after observing the Passover meal with them.
 - ❖ It's now very late Thursday night or very early Friday morning.
 - ❖ They had been with Jesus in the garden for several hours while He prayed.
 - ❖ Three times, Jesus came back to find them sleeping instead of praying.

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THE SCENE

- **He was reinforcing the importance of prayer to them when this scene unfolds.**
 - ❖ Remember, Jesus had been wrestling mightily with temptation himself and He knew they were about to be tempted too.
 - ❖ Three times He asked the Father to let the cup pass from Him and He was tempted to reject it.
 - ❖ He was under so much stress and strain that drops of blood dripped from His head.
 - ❖ God sent angels to attend to Him and His strength was renewed, and He was reenergized.

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THE BETRAYAL

- **The mob arrived while Jesus was speaking about the importance of prayer in avoiding temptation.**
 - ❖ Judas left the Passover meal to meet with religious leaders and initiate his betrayal.
 - ❖ It's now dark and hard to see so Judas uses a kiss Jesus to identify Jesus for the mob.
 - ❖ But Jesus already knew why Judas had come, remember, he foretold it just hours before.

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THE APOSTLE'S REACTION

- **The disciples wanted to defend Jesus with their swords:**
 - ❖ Somewhat understandable given how they mistook His remarks in the upper room.
 - ❖ The disciples ask for permission to strike, but the ever-impulsive Peter doesn't wait for an answer.
 - ❖ Peter cuts off an ear, demonstrating his commitment to Jesus (v. 33).
 - ❖ Peter was brave, when Jesus was around.

⁴⁹When those around him saw what was going to happen, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰Then one of them struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear.

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THE APOSTLE'S MISUNDERSTANDING

- **But they misunderstood Jesus' meaning in the upper room, and they still do here in the garden as well.**
 - ❖ Jesus told them to be prepared because things were about to change.
 - ❖ He said that He would be counted among the lawless, and so would they because of their association with Him.
 - ❖ He was trying to prepare them for the changes that were ahead, but they still didn't get it.

⁴⁹When those around him saw what was going to happen, they asked, **"Lord, should we strike with the sword?"** ⁵⁰Then one of them struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear.

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THE REPRIMAND BY JESUS

- **The disciples lack of understanding is frustrating to Jesus, again.**
 - ❖ Exasperated with them before, He said "That is enough!" as they left the upper room.
 - ❖ And now, here in the garden, He corrects them once again, because they are failing to understand a very important point.
- **The lamb would go willingly to the altar!**
- **Not only did He surrender peacefully, but He performed His last miracle on the way!**

⁵¹But Jesus responded, **"No more of this!"** And touching his ear, he healed him.

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⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, temple police, and the elders who had come for him, **“Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a criminal**

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THE RESPONSE OF JESUS

- **Religious, military and civil leadership are present to arrest Jesus, as if He were a violent criminal or revolutionary.**
 - ❖ Their swords and clubs show a readiness to use force, if necessary, to apprehend Jesus.
 - ❖ The fact that they think such resolve is necessary illustrates their total blindness to the situation and their total lack of understanding of it's significance.

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⁵³Every day while I was with you in the temple, you never laid a hand on me. **But this is your hour** — and the dominion of darkness.”

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THE SURRENDER OF JESUS

- **He calls out the hypocrisy of the leaders, but He does not resist arrest.**
 - ❖ He could have called ten thousand angels to His defense, but He did not.
 - ❖ He had already settled the matter, in prayer, before the Father.
 - ❖ He was committed to the plan, and to all of us, the beneficiaries of it!
- **Never forget Jesus was the first one to say, “I surrender all!”**

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DELIBERATE DISCIPLESHIP

- Jesus' arrest was a tragic moment when God allowed the forces of evil to work their will, for a season.
- Judas, and the Jewish leaders acted cowardly, under the cover of darkness, to execute their plans.
- The disciples didn't respond much better, they tried to stop the arrest by coming to Jesus' defense with swords.
- But Jesus was in total control of the situation at all times and He surrendered to the enemy, voluntarily and without incident.
- In fact, He went even further and showed mercy, love and compassion by healing the servant's ear on the way to His trial.
- May we live by His example this week. Let us be bold enough to show mercy, love and compassion to those who oppose us and our Way.