

JESUS: HIS FINAL 24 HOURS #2: Betrayal & Arrest

1. Judas (like all of us) Possessed 100% Free Will - No One is Destined by God to Reject Him (God is Not the Great Puppet Master!) (Matthew 26:47-55)

Matt. 26:47 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.

⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him."

49 And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him.

50 Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.

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.

52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?

54 But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be SO?"

55 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.

2. Arrogant Faith Always(!) Produces Spiritual <u>Disaster</u> (vv 69-75)

Matt. 26:69 Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." ⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean."

71 And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

⁷² And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." ⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you."

⁷⁴ Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed.

⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

3. They All Abandoned Him. What Would It Take for You to Walk Away From or Betray Christ? (v 56)

Matt. 26:56 But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

