

Easter Teaching No. 4

The Arrest

Before we continue it must be said that 22 points of Sanhedrin law were about to be violated when it came to the arrest and trial of Jesus. These laws were to protect Jewish citizens and they are actually very fair and considerate laws. It is just a shame they were not put into operation for Jesus. As each law is violated during the teaching, I will tell you. These are listed in totality for reference at the end of the study.

After the Passover meal, Jesus and his disciples retired to the Garden of Gethsemane on the slopes of the Mount of Olives. After a heavy meal and four cups of wine, the disciples found it impossible to stay awake. Jesus on the other hand knew what was going to befall him and we are told that he was in such anguish that he sweated drops of blood (haematohidrosis) An angel came and ministered to him and strengthened him for what he was about to endure.

Judas, had not been to buy provisions, but rather went to the religious leaders who took him to Pilate to provide Pilate with the indictment to secure the cohort of soldiers for an arrest. Here the first Sanhedrin Law was violated:

Rule 1: *There was to be no arrest by religious authorities that was affected by a bribe*

A Roman cohort of soldiers was anywhere between 300 and 600 men, there were also the servants of the High Priest, other Jewish officers and Sanhedrin members. What a sight that must have been marching from Jerusalem over to the Mount of Olives, considering the leaders wanted him arrested without the crowds being aware. It may have been late in the evening but 300 soldiers + with torches and lanterns would be difficult to miss.

Rule 2: *There were to be no steps of criminal proceedings after sunset*

Jesus did not flinch, he saw the arresting party and he went out to meet them. He asked who they were looking for.

John 18:5 tells us that when they answered 'Jesus of Nazareth', Jesus replied 'I AM', this of course was the name of God in the Old Testament. At this all those in the arresting party fell backwards as dead men. Jesus' deity shone through, showing that he was in control and he was allowing them to arrest him willingly. When they all got up off the ground, Judas wanted to earn his money and came forward and kissed Jesus with the kiss of betrayal.

Then Peter in defence of Jesus, pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. Jesus however put the ear back into place and healed it, saying to Peter that even then if Jesus wanted, his Father would send more than twelve legions of angels to rescue him. But he had to drink this cup as it was his Father's will, and for the fulfilment of prophecy.

Luke 22:52 Tells us that Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the Temple guard and the elders

'Am I leading a rebellion that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour - when darkness reigns'.

Here we have another reference to darkness. Darkness to the Jewish mind, being the absence of light, representing those who do not have eternal life because they are unknown to God. Darkness, a symbol of evil, spiritual blindness, sin and guilt.

Those in the party were chief priests, elders and Sanhedrin members in violation of Rule 3.

Rule 3: *Judges or members of the Sanhedrin were not allowed to participate in an arrest*

Matt 26:56 says 'But all this came to pass, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then the disciples all left him and fled'.

At this point the disciples were so frightened that they dispersed and ran away.

Jesus was bound and marched from the Garden to await his first trial.