

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

March 14, 2016

Events leading to Easter (Pt. 2 of 4)

JOHN 18:12-14 NKJV – (12) Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him (13) and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. (14) Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

According to the gospels, after the Last Supper, Jesus and his disciples went out to Gethsemane, a garden located at the edge of the Kidron Valley, thought by scholars to probably have been an olive grove. Once there, he is described as leaving the group to pray privately.

The gospels state that Jesus asked God that His burden be taken from Him, requesting that events unfold differently, giving final deference to God. In Luke, we read that an angel appeared and strengthened Jesus, who then returned to His disciples. The gospels state that the three disciples with Jesus fall asleep, and Jesus criticized them for failing to stay awake even for an hour, suggesting they pray to avoid temptation.

At that point, Judas gives Jesus a kiss, as a pre-arranged sign to those that had accompanied Judas as to who Jesus was. Having been identified, the officers arrest Jesus, although one of Jesus' disciples thought to stop them with a sword, cutting off the ear of one of the arresting officers. The Gospel of John specifies that Simon Peter cut off the ear of Malchus, the servant of Caiaphas, the high priest. Luke adds that Jesus healed the wound. John, Matthew, and Luke state that Jesus criticized the violent act, insisting that they do not resist Jesus' arrest. In Matthew, Jesus made the well-known statement "*all who live by the sword, shall die by the sword*".

The account in the Gospel of John differs from that of the gospels; only in John does it state that Roman soldiers help to carry out the arrest. Judas leads the arresting party to Jesus, but rather than Judas pointing out Jesus, John has Jesus himself, "knowing all that was to happen to him", ask them whom they are looking for; when they say "Jesus of Nazareth", he replies "*I am He*" at which point all members of the arresting party step backward and fall to the ground.

SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 15:18

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: If the devil is knocking at your front door, let Jesus answer it!