

Mar. 31 - Scripture: Luke 22: 47-65

"Jesus is Betrayed and Arrested."

Observation: Jesus and the disciples were in their "usual" place on the Mount of Olives. Jesus had assigned them the task of praying; & after he prayed he found his disciples "asleep, exhausted from grief. 'Why are you sleeping?' he asked them. 'Get up and pray...'"

Verse 49-53: A crowd approached and the betrayal became obvious. One disciple pulled a sword and cut an ear off of someone in the crowd. Jesus told the disciples to put the fight to a halt; with His touch, the man's ear was healed. Then Jesus commented on the mob's weapons, ways, & wait: "'Am I some dangerous revolutionary,' he asked, 'that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me?'" (Obviously, the answer is "No.")

When Peter was asked if he was a follower and if he knew Christ, he replied, "I don't know what you're talking about" (v. 60). And Jesus was close enough to hear both Peter and the rooster's crow. After that, Christ was mocked and beaten throughout the night.

Application: Some of us are in that tranquil state of time with God, asleep and exhausted from life. And for some, it is a defining moment. A battle rages.

Jesus did not deny that he is the Son of God, the Messiah. Because of their unbelief, he said, "the Son of Man will be seated at God's right hand" (v. 69).

Peter knew Christ and denied it; with weapons around, I probably would too. Who do you say Jesus is? No sword at your ear or mob around you, are YOU one of HIS followers?

I hope you, like Peter and me, come from denying Him to saying, "Lord, Lord." May God's peace be with you.

Prayer: Lord, Please help my family, friends, community, and all people know you. Help them turn from denial or false beliefs to trust in the Son of God.

Writer: Amy Eyestone Wood: Like Peter, I denied the existence of Christ. I figured that a virgin birth was not possible, so all religions built from that were not possible. With small faith in an unknown god, I lived life, attended religious events, & asked many questions. A defining time came during a year of amazing God things: defining moments. Finally, I had faith to hear; and God told me things that only He could know, first and foremost: "Jesus was born from a virgin." I figure He has always been with me, even when I denied His Christ. For that I know that I know, Christ is who He says He is.