

5. Jesus' Fulfillment of Prophecy

WEEK 11

19. Friend, why have you come?
20. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?
21. How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen this?
22. Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me?
Matt. 26:47-56; Mark 14:48-49; Luke 22:52-53. (NKJV)

The Judas Kiss

⁴⁷ While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, suddenly arrived. A large mob, with swords and clubs, was with him from the chief priests and elders of the people. ⁴⁸ His betrayer had given them a sign: "The One I kiss, He's the One; arrest Him!" ⁴⁹ So he went right up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!"—and kissed Him. ⁵⁰ "Friend," Jesus asked him, "why have you come?" Then they came up, took hold of Jesus, and arrested Him. ⁵¹ At that moment one of those with Jesus reached out his hand and drew his sword. He struck the high priest's slave and cut off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus told him, "Put your sword back in place because all who take up a sword will perish by a sword. ⁵³ Or do you think that I cannot call on My Father, and He will provide Me at once with more than 12 legions of angels? ⁵⁴ How, then, would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?" ⁵⁵ At that time Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs, as if I were a criminal, to capture Me? Every day I used to sit, teaching in the temple complex, and you didn't arrest Me. ⁵⁶ But all this has happened so that the prophetic Scriptures would be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted Him and ran away.

Matt 26:47-56 (HCSB)

With Swords and Clubs

The words were barely out of his mouth when Judas (the one from the Twelve) showed up, and with him a gang from the high priests and religious leaders brandishing swords and clubs. The betrayer had worked out a sign with them: "The one I kiss, that's the one—seize him." He went straight to Jesus, greeted him, "How are you, Rabbi?" and kissed him. Jesus said, "Friend, why this charade?" Then they came on him—grabbed him and roughed him up. One of those with Jesus pulled his sword and, taking a swing at the Chief Priest's servant, cut off his ear. Jesus said, "Put your sword back where it belongs. All who used swords are destroyed by swords. Don't you realize that I am able right now to call to my Father, and twelve companies—more, if I want them—of fighting angels would be here, battle ready? But if I did that, how would the Scriptures come true that say this is the way it has to be?" Then Jesus addressed the mob: "What is this—coming out after me with swords and clubs as if I were a dangerous criminal? Day after day, I have been sitting in the Temple teaching, and you never so much as lifted a hand against me. You've done it this way to confirm and fulfill the prophetic writings." Then all the disciples cut and ran.

Matthew 26:47-56 (The Message)

Reflections:

Jesus had all the power (thousands of angels) to stop what was going to happen. However, He chose to be obedient to the Father's will. Many times we like to use our own power and influence to "get our way." Even as Christians, we sometimes want to impose our wills on others or against others. It is in those moments when we must ask the hard questions, just as Jesus did, "Why have you come?" We know why. He came to fulfill scripture and to fulfill His mission (to redeem the world).

Have we come to deceive, to be self-serving, to tear down or have we come to be a servant, to serve others, to build up? We all have the capability of being like Judas. Christ has provided us with a choice to follow Him or go our own way. It's not easy. It's a daily choice.

Questions to Ponder:

- a. What is your purpose in life?
- b. When is the last time you chose your way over the way of Christ?
- c. Is it easier to fight or to walk away?

Prayer— Thank You, Lord, for fulfilling the Scriptures, for taking on our sins, for loving us in spite of ourselves. Amen.