

incumbered in this body of flesh, yet the Spirit always calls us to that **alertness** and **vigilance** of **wisdom**. Consider even now how we must constantly **watch** and **pray** that we stand ready in the **battle** of our **daily** Christian life. **“39 And again He went away and prayed, saying the same words. 40 And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. 41 And He came the third time, and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest?”** Even after repeated **waking** and **reproof** by the Lord, yet the disciples cannot seem to **muster** themselves from their slumber. Convicted yet drowsy, **“they did not know how to answer Him.”** Indeed, they were **ashamed** of their drowsiness, and had nothing to say in **excuse** for it. Often times in the cloud of **spiritual conflict** or **testing**, we find our selves distracted or **weak** in our ability to remain **focused** or **diligent**. Also take note here, **three times** Peter failed to **watch** and **pray**; **three times** he would **fall** into temptation and **disown Jesus**. At a time when we ought to be most aware and alert, we find ourselves in the **slumber** of **weakness** or **complacency**. Yet **Jesus** our Master and **Shepherd** is close at hand, always **protecting** and **interceding** for us. Matthew Henry comments on Jesus vigilance here; *“Thus he gave a specimen of his continued care for his church on earth, even when it is half asleep, and not duly concerned for itself, while he ever lives making intercession with his Father in heaven.”* **End quote.** As much as we would like to **muster** the strength and discipline to be **spiritually vigilant** at all times, yet we will always find the **Lord** to be **all** that we need, even in the **weakness** of our **flesh**. Jesus having petitioned God these three times has apparently **settled** the matter in **His heart** and mind. **“41 It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.”** The time for **Jesus** to **bear** the consequences of trial and judgment for **our sins** is upon Him as the **“hour has come.”** The scene will now abruptly change as Jesus’ **enemies converge** upon Him. He will now, by Divine Providence come into the **“hands of sinners”** and be brought under the **control** of sinful men. The **sinless** Son of God will be **condemned** as common criminal, and this with the **bitter** sting of a friend’s betrayal. **“42 “Arise, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!”** Judas knowing the place where Jesus resorts with His disciples, now brings **Jesus’ enemies** to that place and carries out the **act of betrayal** so that the Scripture will be fulfilled.

**Mark 14:43-52** - 43 And immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up, accompanied by a multitude with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. 44 Now he who was betraying Him had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one; seize Him, and lead Him away under guard." 45 And after coming, he immediately went to Him, saying, "Rabbi!" and kissed Him. 46 And they laid hands on Him, and seized Him.

47 But a certain one of those who stood by drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear. 48 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me, as against a robber? 49 "Every day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me; but this has happened that the Scriptures might be fulfilled." 50 And they all left Him and fled. 51 And a certain young man was following Him, wearing nothing but a linen sheet over his naked body; and they seized him. 52 But he left the linen sheet behind, and escaped naked.

Judas arrives with an **armed Temple guard** who have come to **seize Jesus**. Can you imagine the **scene** as **Judas leads** the way to find Jesus in the **darkness of night**? The premeditated plan to aid in the **arrest of Jesus**, and the steadfast **will to carry** it through to the **end**, and all of this for a mere **30 pieces of silver**, reveals the sinful **calloused heart** of **Judas**. Blinded by the power of **greed**, he will take this violent mob to pounce upon his gentle Rabbi and friend. **"42 "Arise, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!"** 43 **And immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up, accompanied by a multitude with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders."** This **"multitude with swords and clubs"** included, some **"chief priests,"** the armed Temple **"officers,"** and even a **"Roman cohort"** of soldiers.

**Luke 22:52-53** - 52 And Jesus said **to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders who had come against Him**, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as against a robber? 53 "While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but **this hour and the power of darkness are yours."** NASB

**John 18:2-3** - 2 Now **Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place**; for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. 3 Judas then, **having received the Roman cohort, and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees**, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. NASB

This was no small happening as the **chief priests** would have had to **obtain permission** from the **Roman authorities** for such a **"cohort"** to accompany them on an **arrest**. That **process** alone was quite an undertaking and one wonders who was bribed to make that happen in the **darkness of night**. But see here the **religious rulers** have gone to great lengths to bring Jesus under their murderous plan. Now comes that famous **kiss of death** whereby **Judas** will, even with a show of **affection**, betray His Rabbi to death. **"44 Now he who was betraying Him had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one; seize Him, and lead Him away under guard."** 45 **And after coming, he immediately went to Him, saying, "Rabbi!" and kissed Him. 46 And they laid hands on Him, and seized Him."** Jesus in His **compassion** would yet **help Judas** to see his folly.

**Luke 22:48** - 48 But Jesus said to him, "**Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?**" NASB

And yet, **calloused** and driven by **greed**, Judas will **betray** the **Son of God** with a kiss. Now this of course will result in great **remorse** on **Judas** part, once he realizes what has happened and **Jesus** had been **condemned**. Matthew records the scene.

**Matthew 27:3-5** - 3 Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, **saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders**, 4 saying, "**I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.**" But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!" 5 And **he threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.** NASB

So awful was **Judas** remorse that "**he went away and hanged himself.**" This was a **tragic end** indeed for that **disciple** who walked with **Jesus** for some 3 plus years. All of this **fulfilled** what the **Scriptures** had said concerning Judas.

**Matthew 27:6-10** - 6 And the chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, **since it is the price of blood.**" 7 **And they counseled together and with the money bought the Potter's Field as a burial place for strangers.** 8 For this reason that field has been called the **Field of Blood** to this day. 9 Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying, "**And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one whose price had been set by the sons of Israel; 10 and they gave them for the Potter's Field, as the Lord directed me.**" NASB

So as Judas identified Jesus, "**they laid hands on Him, and seized Him.**" At this the disciples were **alarmed** and stepping forward in defense, one of them **drew** his sword to **defend** Jesus. "**47 But a certain one of those who stood by drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear.**" John identifies this as Jesus.

**John 18:10** - 10 **Simon Peter therefore having a sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's slave**, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was **Malchus**. NASB

And at this of course, **Jesus** in complete **control** of the moment, in His compassion and resolute mind to let them take Him, **heals** the **ear** of **Malchus**. Luke records the **healing**.

**Luke 22:51** - 51 But Jesus answered and said, "Stop! No more of this." **And He touched his ear and healed him.** NASB

At this the Lord seeks to show them the great shame of their deeds done in the darkness of night. "**48 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me, as against a robber? 49 "Every day I**

was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me; but this has happened that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.” Jesus unmasks their conspiracy which they were not content to carry out in broad **daylight** in the Temple courts. But all of this they have done under the **cover** of **night** so that their **dark conspiracy** could be brought to its **end** and Jesus could be **unlawfully** put to **death** by them. At this the disciples realized Jesus would be taken by force into custody and Mark records, “**50 And they all left Him and fled.**” Jesus earlier **prophecy** in **14:27** of their **falling away** is fulfilled here just a few hours later. Even though **they all had said** in **14:31** that like Peter that they would **not fall away**, yet when pressed by the fear and danger of arrest, they all “**they all left Him and fled.**” And so at the **betrayal** of a **close friend**, and the **abandonment** of **all His friends**, Jesus is now led away **all alone** to face His enemies, and Jesus **knows all** that is about to **come upon** Him.

**John 18:4-5 - 4 Jesus therefore, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth,** and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" 5 They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." **He said to them, "I am He."** And Judas also who was betraying Him, was standing with them. NASB See here that **Jesus the Good Shepherd** will **lay down His life** for His **sheep**. Emerging from the **agony** of prayer in **Gethsemane** (the press of olives), Jesus now **resolutely** and **willingly** goes headlong into the **hands** of **wicked men** to be mistreated, mocked, and **falsely condemned**. John records that He does this by the **command** of His **Father**.

**John 10:14-18 - 14 "I am the good shepherd;** and I know My own, and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; **and I lay down My life for the sheep.** 16 "And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd. 17 "For this reason the Father loves Me, **because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."** NASB

Here at the **arrest** of **Jesus**, Mark adds what many consider to be an **odd scene** in the text, for it appears **without an answer** to the question that it brings. “**51 And a certain young man was following Him, wearing nothing but a linen sheet over his naked body; and they seized him. 52 But he left the linen sheet behind, and escaped naked.**” Many have sought to **identify** this **person**, and usually they will say it is **Mark** himself. It may be that Mark is trying to say he was an **eyewitness** of these **things**. Yet in the text, he **does not identify** himself and we are left to conclude that the **Lord** would have us rest in the fact that **we do not know** who it is. Any guess would be mere **conjecture**. The scene will now grow even **darker**.