

The Betrayal of Jesus

Matthew 26:14–16, 46–50; Mark 14:42–46; Luke 22:47–48; John 18:3–8, 12

*Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the
Son of man with a kiss? Luke 22:48*

After Jesus finished praying in Gethsemane, He awoke His Apostles, saying, “Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me” (Matthew 26:46). While Jesus was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, brought a large group of men that had been sent by the chief priests and elders. They were carrying swords and clubs. (See Matthew 26:47; Mark 14:42–43; Luke 22:47; John 18:3.)

Judas had plotted with the Jewish leaders to betray Jesus, having agreed to lead them to Him if they would pay 30 pieces of silver (see Matthew 26:14–16; see also John 18:2). Judas told the armed men who accompanied him, “Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast” (Matthew 26:48; see also Mark 14:44).

Judas then came to Jesus and said, “Hail, master,” and kissed Him (Matthew 26:49; see also Mark 14:45). Knowing that Judas had betrayed Him, Jesus said, “Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?” (Luke 22:48).

Then Jesus stepped forth and asked the group of men, “Whom seek ye?” They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus told them, “I am he.” At this, the group stepped back and fell to the ground. Jesus asked them again whom they sought. Again they answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said, “I have told you that I am he,” and He asked that His followers be permitted to leave unharmed. (See John 18:4–8.) He then allowed Himself to be arrested (see John 18:12; Matthew 26:50; Mark 14:46).

Summary

Judas, one of the Apostles, went to the Jewish leaders and plotted to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. He led a group of men armed with swords and clubs to Jesus and the other Apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane. Judas greeted

Jesus and kissed Him, which was the signal for the men to know which person was Jesus. Jesus allowed the men to arrest Him but asked that His followers be permitted to go unharmed.

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