

## The Betrayal

The humble and lowly Sufferer of Gethsemane had hardly taken the cup from His Father's Hand before it fell to His lot to have to take a draught from it; for the Scripture records that immediately after He had said to the disciples, "Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that does betray me", Judas and "a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people" arrived upon the scenes in order to lay hands upon Jesus and take Him as their prisoner.

The time would have been about Midnight for our Lord and His disciples must have been at least an hour in the Garden, and the many events in the Upper Room and the Discourses on the way to the Garden would have covered the intervening hours from the time, about sunset, when they sat down to eat the Passover.

We are told by Mark that Judas, after he has struck his fearful bargain with the chief priests, "sought how he might conveniently betray Him", to which Luke adds, "in the absence of the multitude". In the counsels of God, our Lord had to die as the Sin Offering of the true 15<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> month in the year A.D. 33, in order to make atonement for our sins. It was a considerable force of soldiers and Temple guards that was assembled and led forth armed as if to encircle a band of dangerous robbers. It was just when He had submitted Himself to obey His Father's will and to go unresistingly down into death at the hands of His enemies, that Judas arrived with the "the great multitude" to arrest Him.

It appears that when our blessed Lord saw this considerable body of soldiers, advancing toward Him and His disciples, He went forth and, ignoring Judas He asked them, "Who seek ye"? For a brief but precious moment the majestic Glory of His Person as the Son of God must have shone forth in such a way as to make all present feel their own utter moral inferiority. As soon then as He had said unto them, I AM (He), they went backward, and fell to the ground. Thus did our Lord give Himself up to His enemies because He had accepted the cup from His Father's Hand which involved His doing so as the first step in His Humiliation Suffering and Death for sinners.

Only as we behold our Lord's sufferings and death as the out-working of John 3:16, where we are told that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life", can we understand why they were allowed. To the believer this is the all-sufficient answer and the only one, which affords explanation for our Lord to have being allowed to be "betrayed into the hands of sinners". Affected by the betrayal, our blessed Master returned to the Holy City a Prisoner bound with chains and under escort by a detachment of soldiers, as if He were an evil-doer of a dangerous order. And so He suffered alone for the sins of the world!

From the book *The Restored Vision* by A.E. Ware.