

## Lent 2014 Bible Studies: Matthew 26

### 8<sup>th</sup> April: 'Arresting Jesus'

<sup>47</sup>While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup>Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.' <sup>49</sup>At once he came up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. <sup>50</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Friend, do what you are here to do.' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup>Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. <sup>52</sup>Then Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. <sup>53</sup>Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup>But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?' <sup>55</sup>At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. <sup>56</sup>But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.' Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

#### Opening Prayer

God our Father,  
as we open the scriptures,  
open our minds that we may know the wonder of your grace,  
and open our hearts to receive the mystery of your love,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

#### **'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him...' 'Greetings, Rabbi!' 'Friend, do what you are about to do.'**

- How do we define friendship?
- What does it mean to be a friend? What are the rights and responsibilities of friendship?

#### **'... all who take the sword will perish by the sword.'**

- What is our attitude to violence? If and when is it appropriate?

#### **Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.**

- If we place ourselves in this passage, who are we?
- Who do we most associate ourselves with?  
Judas? Jesus? Chief priests and elders? Slave of the high priest? One of the other disciples?
- When have we been deserted or abandoned?
- When have deserted or abandoned others?

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### 'Arresting Jesus' – Act of Worship

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you:  
**and also with you.**

*Silence is kept, while we call to mind our sins.*

Lord Jesus, you were betrayed by a friend.  
Forgive us when we have failed to be friends to one another.  
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you were arrested that the scriptures might be fulfilled.  
Forgive us when sin has marred our lives, and disfigured your image in us.  
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you were deserted by your disciples.  
Forgive us when we have deserted others in the hour of their need.  
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.  
**Amen.**

READING: Matthew 26.55-56

HYMN

1. **Who is this so weak and helpless,  
Child of lowly Hebrew maid,  
rudely in a stable sheltered,  
coldly in a manger laid?  
'Tis the Lord of all creation,  
who this wondrous path hath trod;  
he is God from everlasting,  
and to everlasting God.**

2. **Who is this, a Man of sorrows,  
walking sadly life's hard way,  
homeless, weary, sighing, weeping,  
over sin and Satan's sway?  
'Tis our God, our glorious Saviour,  
who above the starry sky  
now for us a place prepareth,  
where no tear can dim the eye.**

3. **Who is this? Behold him raining  
drops of blood upon the ground!  
Who is this, despised, rejected,  
mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?  
'Tis our God, who gifts and graces  
on his Church now poureth down;  
who shall smite in holy vengeance  
all his foes beneath his throne.**

4. **Who is this that hangeth dying  
with the thieves on either side?  
Nails his hands and feet are tearing,  
and spear hath pierced his side.  
'Tis the God who ever liveth,  
'mid the shining ones on high,  
in the glorious golden city,  
reigning everlastingly.**

PRAYERS are offered, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**