

24. Jesus Arrested

Introduction: In the previous story, Jesus washed his disciples' feet. This was meant to teach them not to be arrogant, but to love one another. Then, while eating the Passover dinner, he also told his disciples that he would die for the sins of the people, and asked them to remember him in the future. Also, Jesus said that among his disciples, one of them would betray him. (John 13:14–15; Luke 22:19–22)

After dinner, Jesus and his disciples went to the Mount of Olives. He told his disciples, "You sit here. I need to go there to pray." (Matthew 26:36; Luke 22:39)

After praying, Jesus came back to where his disciples were, and said, "The time has come. The one who is betraying me is here." Among Jesus' twelve disciples, there was one named Judas. He brought a group of men with swords to come and arrest Jesus. His disciples were so afraid that they all fled. (Matthew 26:45–46)

This group of men brought Jesus to the house of the highest religious leader. There were also other religious teachers of the law and religious leaders. They were there to discuss how to create false evidence so that Jesus would be convicted and killed. (Matthew 26:57–59)

Finally, they found two men who would give false evidence against Jesus. The highest religious leader asked Jesus, "Do you want to give us an explanation of the things about which they are accusing you?" Jesus did not say a word. (Matthew 26:60–63)

The highest religious leader asked Jesus one more time, "I use the name of God and ask you to swear. Tell us, are you the Savior that God had promised us, the son of God?" (Matthew 26:63)

Jesus answered, "Yes; it is as you say." (Matthew 26:64)

When the religious leader heard Jesus' answer to his question, he became very angry, tearing his own clothing, and saying loudly: "You have all heard him say these words which are insulting to God. What other evidence do we need?" (Matthew 26:65)

They began to beat Jesus and spit on his face. (Matthew 26:67)

The next morning, all the religious leaders and religious teachers of the law gathered together to discuss how to convince the government official that Jesus should be put to death. (Matthew 27:1)

They tied up Jesus and brought him to the government official. When the official saw Jesus he asked him, "Are you the king of Israel's people?" (Matthew 27:2, 11)

Jesus answered, "You said it right. I am." (Matthew 27:11)

When Jesus was confronted with all the accusations of the religious leaders, he did not say a word. The official saw that Jesus was not defending himself and was quite surprised. (Matthew 27:12, 14)

Then that official met with those religious leaders and said, "You accuse this man of inciting the people to rebellion. I have already interrogated him in front of you. I do not find him guilty; moreover, I do not find him guilty of any crime deserving the death penalty. I will have my men beat him with whips, and then I will release him." (Luke 23:13–16)

Once they heard what the official said, they shouted loudly, "Kill him! Kill him!" The official tried to reason with the people. He wanted to release Jesus, but they continued to shout, wanting Jesus killed. (Luke 23:18, 20–23)

When the official saw this situation, he knew that it was no use to talk, and he was afraid that the people would start a riot. He asked his men to bring out a bowl of water and in front of everyone he washed his hands, saying, "It is not me who wants to shed the blood of this innocent man. This sin is not mine. All of you must take the blame." (Matthew 27:24)

The people said together, "We and our children will take the blame for killing this man." (Matthew 27:25)

Then the official had his men beat Jesus with whips. After the beating, he was taken to the place where criminals are killed. (Matthew 27:26)