Lesson 6: Betrayal



Introduction

After the Last Supper, Jesus brought his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. While he was there, Judas showed up with guards from the temple who wanted to arrest Jesus. Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss, and handed him over to be put on trial.

Read: John 18:1-14

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?



Where in the Bible?

The majority of the four Gospels focus on the last days of Jesus' life.

The New Testament: Arrest

After sharing one Last Supper with his disciples, Jesus and the disciples went out to Garden of Gethsemane. It was there that Jesus was betrayed by Judas, arrested, and taken into custody. He was brought before religious and political authorities.

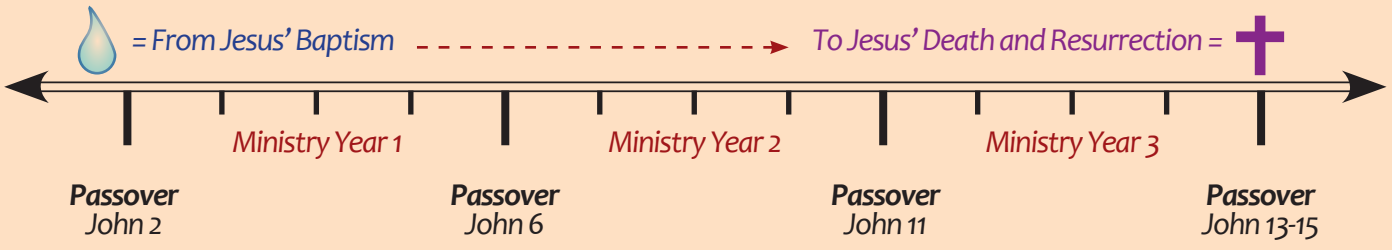
Biblical Background

To be betrayed by one you love is one of the hardest things there is to suffer. We expect our enemies to be against us, but to have our friends turn on us and attack us is difficult to bear.

This is what Judas did to Jesus. He went from being one of Jesus' closest friends to the one who set in motion his Lord's death. As Jesus said, "The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born" (Matthew 26:24).

When in Time?

Jesus' public ministry of teaching and healing lasted just over three years. We know this because the Gospel of John records four yearly visits that Jesus made to Jerusalem for the Passover during his ministry. The first visit was just after his baptism and the last was in the final week of Jesus' life.



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Discuss: John 18:1-14

1. In the hours before his arrest and trial, why do you think Jesus went to the Garden? What did he intend to do there? (For a hint, read Matthew 26:36-46.)

2. Who was with Judas when he entered the Garden? For what kind of reception were they ready?

3. What happened to the soldiers when Jesus said: "I am he" (v. 6)? How is this similar to what happened to Moses when he encountered the burning bush in Exodus 3:6? In Exodus 3:14, what did God tell Moses his name was?

4. Back in the Garden, what did Peter do when Judas and the others arrived? Was Jesus happy with Peter for his actions? What did he say?

5. It must have felt terrible for Jesus to be betrayed by a friend. Yet Jesus stayed calm, and trusted that God was in control of even this situation. Have you ever felt betrayed before? Did your faith help you deal with that experience?

6. Where did the soldiers take Jesus after they arrested him? Who were the captain and officers working for?

7. Read Jeremiah 23:1-5. Who do you think are the bad "shepherds" that Jeremiah was referring to? What did they do (or neglect to do)?

8. According to Jeremiah, what was God going to do about this? How was this prophecy fulfilled many years later in Jesus and his disciples?

Where in the World?

The map to the far right shows an overhead view of the capital city of Jerusalem as it was in Jesus' day. Some important locations are marked.

According to tradition, the location of the **Upper Room** where Jesus shared his Last Supper with the disciples is in the southwestern corner of the city.

Later that night, Jesus was arrested in a place called the **Garden of Gethsemane** (*geth-SEH-ma-nee*). That is where Judas brought the soldiers of the high priest to show where Jesus was staying.

a) On what side of the city was the Garden of Gethsemane located? _____

b) What was the name of the ridge where this garden was located? _____





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