

“The Follow Jesus Project”

Monday, Nov. 30

Scriptures to read:

Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-52

Thoughts to consider:

Jesus, after a time of struggle in prayer, allowed scripture to be fulfilled. He did not call down angels to protect Him, though He could have. The disciples, on the other hand, easily fulfilled scripture. They fled without a second thought. It is thought the young man mentioned in Mark’s account (vs. 51) was Mark himself.

Tuesday, Dec. 1

Scriptures to read: Luke 22:47-53, John 18:3-12

Thoughts to consider:

Luke, being a doctor, gives us a more detailed account of the physical encounter with the sword. John’s account gives us a name for the victim. Malchus must have had a huge conflict of emotions. He had come as part of the crowd to arrest Jesus. But he was then recipient of Jesus’ love and experienced a miracle personally from the person he was wronging. Isn’t this a micro picture of God’s love for all of us? See Romans 5:8.

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Scriptures to read: Matthew 26:57-68, Mark 14:53-65
Deuteronomy 17:6, Deuteronomy 19:15

Thoughts to consider:

This session, or pre-trial, was all about finding a charge against Jesus to fit the punishment that had already been decided — death. It is ironic that they were concerned about the lawfulness of the charge — finding two false accusers that didn’t conflict with each other — when the whole set up was a charade.

Thursday, Dec. 3

Scriptures to read:

Matthew 26:69-75, Mark 14:66-72, Luke 22:54-62
John 18:15-18, 25-27

Thoughts to consider:

While Jesus stood firm before His accusers, Peter quickly denied knowing Jesus. How do you think Peter felt when Jesus turned and looked at him? (Luke 22:61). No wonder he wept bitterly. But those tears were tears of repentance, and Peter received forgiveness and went on to be a powerful witness for Jesus. No matter our sins, we can be forgiven, too, if we are repentant.

Friday, Dec. 4

Scriptures to read: Matthew 27:1, Mark 15:1, Luke 22:66-71

Thoughts to consider:

Why was a second gathering of the Sanhedrin necessary? Again, ironically, the law must be followed even to achieve a false verdict. A trial held during the night was illegal. So a second one at daybreak was held.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Scriptures to read: Matthew 27:3-10, Acts 1:18-19

Thoughts to consider:

Judas was sorry. He knew Jesus was innocent, but his sin of betrayal had helped condemn Jesus to death. His remorse did not lead to repentance, but full of self-pity he took matters in his own hands and hung himself. Our sins also are the reason Jesus died. But Jesus overcame death so that our repentance would be rewarded with our own victory over death and life everlasting with Him.

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