



## The DAILY JESUS NEWS #303 Friday... Day of Agony and Atonement

### Jesus' Arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane

**Miracle 34: Judas Betrays Jesus With a Kiss; Jesus Heals Malchus**  
**MT 27.48-54 (Parallel Texts: MK 14.43-47; LK 22.48-51; JN 18.10-12)**

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48 <sup>MT</sup>Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him <sup>M</sup>and lead him away under guard."

49 <sup>MT</sup>Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!"

<sup>L</sup>He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "*Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?*"

<sup>MT</sup>Judas kissed him.

50 Jesus said, "*Friend, do what you came to do.*" Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

51 With that, one of Jesus' companions, <sup>J</sup>Simon Peter, <sup>MT</sup>reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his <sup>J</sup>right <sup>MT</sup>ear. <sup>J</sup>The servant's name was Malchus.

52 Jesus commanded Peter, <sup>L</sup>"*No more of this.*" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

<sup>MT</sup>Jesus said to Peter, "*Put your sword back in its place, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.* 53 <sup>J</sup>*Shall I not drink the cup the Father has permanently given me?* <sup>MT</sup>*Or do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?*

54 "*But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it has to happen in this way?*"

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	The Garden of Gethsemane, on Mount Olivet
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)

Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	E. Friday: Day of Agony and Atonement
	Jesus' Arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane
Title	Judas Betrays Jesus With a Kiss; Jesus Heals Malchus

Today's reading contrasts the behavior of Jesus and Judas Iscariot. We will first consider Judas. We can describe his character here as pitiful, at best.

Yesterday we saw that Jesus took the initiative and identified himself when the mob arrived at Gethsemane to arrest him, and demanded that his disciples go free. Thus, there was no need for Judas to go through with his plan to betray Jesus with a kiss. Jesus had spared him that humiliation.

However, Judas brazenly plunged ahead anyway. He was confused, and driven by the need to fulfill his obligation to the leaders because he had received 30 pieces of silver to deliver that kiss. He was more loyal to Jesus' murderers, and to the responsibilities created by money than he was to Jesus himself. As Jesus had taught: *"You cannot serve both God, and money."* Judas had made his choice.

When Judas approached him, Jesus asked if he was going to betray his Lord with a kiss. Jesus was attempting to protect Judas from making a terrible situation that much worse. After he had kissed Jesus anyway--a sign of respect and affection--the Lord called Judas "friend." What did he mean by this?

Love rejoices in the truth, so it speaks the truth. Judas was no friend of Jesus when he betrayed him with a kiss. How could Jesus still call him a "friend?" In the farewell discourse Jesus had called his disciples "friends," rather than mere servants (JN 15.14-16). Jesus used a word based on the root meaning of "mutual love" for "friends" in John 15.

In the Garden, when Jesus addressed Judas as "friend" he used another word, which meant "associate," or a person who accompanies another. Jesus was reminding Judas that he was invited long ago to follow Jesus, and accompany him everywhere as his student. Betrayal was a high crime against Jesus in light of all the time they had spent together in a Teacher/disciple, and Lord/servant relationship. Jesus deserved Judas' loyalty at the least.

Jesus' love and compassion for Judas shine in this heart-breaking scene. It is one thing to be betrayed. It is another thing to be betrayed by someone you have spent thousands of hours with, and have never done anything but love with perfection. Yet Jesus took it all in stride. The Scriptures that prophesied all of this had to be fulfilled.

Jesus' love and compassion also sparkled in his healing of Malchus, the servant of the High Priest, who would lead the Sanhedrin to the sentence of death by crucifixion at the hands of the Romans. This was the last healing miracle of Jesus' ministry, and it was pure grace extended to his enemies.

The contrast between Jesus' character and deportment at his arrest, and the way he was treated by his "friend" Judas, and his enemies gathered in a mob against him, is the difference between the nature of God the Trinity, and sinful humanity. It was a revelation of the glory of God, just as Jesus had prayed.

#### APPLICATION:

*What do you do when those who should love you turn against you? Do you still love them unconditionally, and treat them as friends?*

*Do you speak and act in their best interests, even when they are destroying you?*

This is the example of Jesus for each of us. We are forgiven and saved today, because Jesus loved us when we were his enemies. Now he tells us to *"go and do the same."*

*Who do you need to love unconditionally today? How are you going to do that?*