

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

**Encounters
With Jesus**

*An Arresting
Encounter*

John 18:1-11

Jesus Arrested

1When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, and he and his disciples went into it.

2Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. 3So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

4Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

5"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) 6When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

7Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"

And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

8"I told you that I am he," Jesus answered. "If you are looking for me, then let these men go." 9This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."^[a]

10Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

11Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

Matthew 26:47-56

Jesus Arrested

47While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. 48Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." 49Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

50Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for."^[a]

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. 51With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

52"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.

53Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? 54But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

55At that time Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. 56But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, Mar 9

Big Idea: Those who encounter Jesus find true freedom and new plans

Key Verse:

Matthew 25:35-36

Opening Question: What did you give up for Lent this year?

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions.
Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders.

Read the passage (include a look at chapter 24 as well).

Discussion Questions

The study this week is based on Bryan's monologue of Malchus, the servant whose ear was cut off when Jesus was arrested. The study is going to take the form of reflective questions based around some of the statements and questions Bryan presented in the monologue.

1. Share some initial responses to the presentation of Malchus. What touched you? What stood out for you? What surprised you?
2. **At one point Malchus shares that he has plans for his life. After his encounter with Jesus he says the following: "I thought I was in control, I thought I had a plan." Have you ever felt this way? What caused this feeling of having your plans disturbed or changed?**
3. **One of the most powerful questions Malchus posed to us was, "Are any of you slaves, in bondage to some master you did not choose?" Reflect on this question. Are there parts of your life that are in bondage to some master other than Jesus?**
4. **Malchus had a visible wound healed by the touch of Jesus. Are there some areas or wounds in your life where the touch of Jesus can bring healing?**
5. If you truly submitted every area of your life to Jesus as Lord, what would that look like? Can you do it? Will you do it?
6. Jesus says in John 8:32 "Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." The immediate context of this verse is holding to Jesus' teachings. How can the truth of Jesus set you free?

Leaders Notes

We continue our new series this week: Encounters with Jesus. Use this series to practice some of the techniques and disciplines you learnt about in the last series.

Celebrate Recovery

During this study it might become apparent that you have something that needs healing, a part of your life where you are not free. Celebrate Recovery is a great ministry for those with hurts, habits and hang-ups. It is open to anyone and meets every Monday at the church. Think about attending!