

Matthew 26: 47-56 (New International Version)

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.

Footnotes:

- a. [Matthew 26:50](#) Or "Friend, why have you come?"

OASIS: Gentleness (Matthew 26: 47-56)

Possible Starter question: **What images or pictures come to your mind when you think of gentleness?**

- Pray for the Holy Spirit's leading (if you haven't already prayed)
- Before the passage is read, remind the group of what immediately proceeds, namely that Jesus is anointed at Bethany, Judas goes to the chief priests, Jesus and the disciples eat the Last Supper and then they retreat to Gethsemane.
- Now have the text read aloud or silently (or both).

Overview question: Not needed since this is a fairly compact passage. However, if you like an overview question, try this one:

Who are the people who act in a decidedly “ungentle” way in this passage?

Paragraph one—verses 47-50a:

- O What is happening? Who arrives? What is their mission?
- O What preparations have been made?
 - I Any ideas as to why Judas chose to kiss Jesus as the signal?
- O What are some of the ironies contained in this scene?

Paragraph two—verses 50b-54:

- O & I As Jesus is seized, at least one of his companions reacts. John (18:10) tells us that it is Peter who takes the swing. (Luke 22:49 tells us that others may also have had swords.)
 - What do you think of Peter's action?
- O Let's focus on what Jesus says to Peter. What are the main points he wants Peter to understand?
 - I If you had been Peter, which of Jesus' points would have made sense? Which might have been lost on you?

Note: A legion was comprised of 6000 soldiers.

Paragraph three—verses 55-56:

- O As Jesus speaks to the crowd, what points does he make to them?
 - I Why do you think he makes the effort to say these things to them?
 - I Why do you think the disciples “take off”?

Wrap-up and conclusion:

- O In this passage, who thinks they are in control?
- O Who clearly is “out of control”?
 - I In what ways is Jesus really the one who is in control?
 - I How have prayer and the Scriptures “armed” Jesus?
 - I Throughout this passage, how is gentleness demonstrated by Jesus—
and to whom?
- A What are some of the situations where, rather than reacting with your natural instincts or tendencies, you need to respond with spiritual gentleness?**
- A Toward whom do you need more of God’s gentleness? (Any ways that our LC can encourage you or pray for you about this?)**

Text is on other page or www.Biblegateway.com

- a. BIG idea on Gentleness: Christ-like relationships are characterized by... a willingness to put God’s will and others’ needs ahead of your own, trusting God to care for you.
 - b. Key verses: Mt. 26:52a “Put your sword back in its place.”
 - c. Today’s text is another narrative passage. Narrative passages are best explored with the simple observation questions that revolve around who? where? when? what? (Why is an interpretation question usually.)
 - d. KEY: O = Observation; I = Interpretation; A = Application (or C = Challenge).
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Advice to leaders:

- a. Complement your OIA questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? What do others of you see/think?)
- b. Pace the study—move on—conclude strong, ending with “**difference making**” application.
- c. Determine the core questions you will ask (and know which ones to skip if pressed for time)
- d. Always reword questions in wording that is comfortable for you (if the question doesn’t make sense to you, then drop it.)
- e. If you are utilizing this “on-line” study and not part of OASIS, I recommend that you get the IVP one volume commentary entitled New Bible Commentary (21st Century Edition). It is well worth the \$40 or whatever it costs.