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and Jewish troops. **:2 Now Judas also, who was betraying Him (handing Him over), knew (3609a) the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples.** The time? Around midnight. The location? Away from the city itself, removed from crowds that could become mobs. Remember, the Jewish leaders had decided not to arrest Jesus during the festival, otherwise a riot might occur among the people (**Mt. 21:46, 26:4-5, Lk. 19:47-48**). Then they found a betrayer, Judas. The place? A walled garden on the Mount of Olives. Jesus went there to pray to prepare Himself for the awful ordeal He was about to endure. According to Matthew, Jesus prayed for approximately 3 hours. When Jesus finished praying, Judas arrived with a small army of Roman soldiers and temple guards. Perhaps by this time it's 3:00 in the morning.

**:3 Judas then, having received the Roman cohort [a battalion, normally 600 soldiers] and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees [separatists, legalists], came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.** Some of the chief priests (mostly Sadducees) were also present (**Lk. 22:52**). The **officers** were probably members of the temple police force (**7:32**); they evidently made the actual arrest since Jesus was taken first to the Jewish authorities, not Pilate the Roman governor. They had lanterns, torches, and weapons. Also at Passover, there was always a full moon. This mob had come out against Jesus as if He was a dangerous, violent criminal. Judas led this group to Jesus and the Eleven. He kissed Jesus repeatedly, while saying, "Hail, Rabbi!" (**Mt. 26:48-49, Mk. 14:44-45, Lk. 22:48**) His betrayal of Jesus was complete!

**:4 So Jesus, knowing (3609a, recognizing) all the things that were coming upon Him [going to happen to Him], went forth and said to them, "Whom do you seek [Who are you looking for]?"** Recognizing what was to occur, He went toward that arresting mob, not away from them. Jesus, the intended victim, took charge of the situation. **Whom do you seek?** He's forcing them to acknowledge they had no authority to take His disciples. What love and grace!

**:5 They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene. He said to them, "I AM He." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them.** 'He' is not in the original Greek. Jesus was once again claiming for Himself the name of God from the OT, especially **Ex. 3:14—I AM!** He repeats this claim 3 times. Also see **4:25-26; 6:35; 8:12,24,28,58; 10:7,9,11,14; 11:25; 13:19, 14:6; 15:1,5**. If He wasn't who He claimed to be, He deserved to be stoned to death for blasphemy. **:6 So when He said to them, "I AM He," they drew back and fell to the ground.** All Jesus had to do was speak His name—the OT God's name—YHWH. We see here the inherent power of God's spoken word. Jesus spoke, and the heavens and earth were created. Now He speaks again. At the proclamation of His name, that assembly drew back and fell to the ground, whether in awe or fear. Someone said, "They all fell down like dominoes!" They would have been spread out, both to defend themselves against an attack by Jesus' followers and/or to cut off any escape attempt on His part.

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:10 **Simon Peter then having a sword, drew it and struck [slashed] the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus.** Peter, having a sword (machaira, a short sword or dagger, one of the 2 the apostles had with them (**Lk. 22:38**). Peter's reckless act threatened to start an encounter that could wind up getting the disciples either killed or arrested—the very thing Jesus was trying to prevent. Here we have the over-confident Simon of **13:37**. "His blind loyalty was touching, but it missed God's plan." This was an act of relying on the flesh when faced with opposition or pressure. Imagine, Peter was willing to take on this huge mob with his short dagger! Apparently Malchus (perhaps a special aide to the high priest) ducked and ended up having his ear hacked off. Some have suggested Peter intended to kill the man by splitting his head open, and Malchus dodged at the last moment. By the way, Jesus healed his ear (**Lk. 22:51**). Interesting, John could now write the actual names of Peter and Malchus because they both would have been dead by the time of his writing.

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**Read :12-14. :12 So the Roman cohort (battalion) and the commander [chiliarch, in command of a thousand troops] and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him.** Again, there was such a large arresting group

because both the Romans and the Jews feared that arresting Jesus might spark a riot. They actually took hold of Jesus and then bound Him.

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Back in **11:49-53 (read)**, Caïaphas had unknowingly prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation and all God's children. A fair hearing could not be expected from this man who had already said putting Jesus to death was expedient. They had already decided on the verdict. After this night, the Jewish religious leaders would accuse Jesus of blasphemy, for which death was the penalty, by stoning if the Jews could have done it. The details of the examinations by Caïaphas are not reported by John.

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## NOTES

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Copy page 339 (Swindoll) on the trials of Jesus. Excellent.

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**:13 and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year.**

**:14 Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people [11:50].**

NLT 1 After saying these things, Jesus crossed the Kidron Valley with his disciples and entered a grove of olive trees. 2 Judas, the betrayer, knew this place, because Jesus had often gone there with his disciples. 3 The leading priests and Pharisees had given Judas a contingent of Roman soldiers and Temple guards to accompany him. Now with blazing torches, lanterns, and weapons, they arrived at the olive grove. 4 Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped forward to meet them. "Who are you looking for?" he asked. 5 "Jesus the Nazarene," they replied. "I AM he," Jesus said. (Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.) 6 As Jesus said "I AM he," they all drew back and fell to the ground! 7 Once more he asked them, "Who are you looking for?" And again they replied, "Jesus the Nazarene." 8 "I told you that I AM he," Jesus said. "And since I am the one you want, let these others go." 9 He did this to fulfill his own statement: "I did not lose a single one of those you have given me." 10 Then Simon Peter drew a sword and slashed off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest's slave. 11 But Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Shall I not drink from the cup of suffering the Father has given me?" 12 So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied him up. 13 First they took him to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest at that time. 14 Caiaphas was the one who had told the other Jewish leaders, "It's better that one man should die for the people."

**JBP** 1-14 When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, and they went into it together. Judas who betrayed him knew the place, for Jesus often met his disciples there. So Judas fetched the guard and the officers which the chief priests and Pharisees had provided for him, and came to the place with torches and lanterns and weapons. Jesus, fully realizing all that was going to happen to him, went forward and said to them, "Who are you looking for?" <sup>5</sup>"Jesus of Nazareth," they answered. "I am the man," said Jesus. (Judas who was betraying him was standing there with the others.) When he said to them, "I am the man", they retreated and fell to the ground. So Jesus asked them again, "Who are you looking for?" And again they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>8-9</sup>"I have told you that I am the man," replied Jesus. "If I am the man you are looking for, let these others go." (Thus fulfilling his previous words, "I have not lost one of those whom you gave me."). At this, Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and slashed at the High Priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) But Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?" Then the guard, with their captain and the Jewish officers, took hold of Jesus and tied his hands together, and led him off to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law to Caiaphas, who was High Priest that year. Caiaphas was the man who advised the Jews, "that it would be a good thing that one man should die for the sake of the people." Behind Jesus followed Simon Peter, and one other disciple who was known personally to the High Priest. He went in with Jesus into the High Priest's courtyard, but Peter was left standing at the door outside. So this other disciple, who was acquainted with the High Priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter inside. The young woman at the door remarked to Peter, "Are you one of this man's disciples, too?" "No, I am not," retorted Peter.