

The Arrest of Jesus

Explanation

The arrest of Jesus took place at night on the Mount of Olives. But who arrested him? Did Judas actually kiss Jesus? What happened with Peter's sword and the servant's ear? Where was Jesus taken immediately after the arrest? These and several other similar questions can be asked about the arrest of Jesus. The answers are not always as clear as we would like them to be. Wrestling with limited textual evidence is challenging but essential in sorting out what actually happened, who was involved, and how and why certain events transpired.

Reference

Paula Fredriksen, *Jesus of Nazareth: King of the Jews* (New York: Vintage, 1999).

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THE MULTITUDE

- The multitude who arrested Jesus was “from the chief priests and elders of the people.” Mt 26:47
- The multitude was “from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.” Mk 14:43
- In the “multitude” were “the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders.” Lk 22:47, 52
- The arresting crowd consisted of “a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees.” Jn 18:3

THE KISS

- Judas said, “Hail, master,” and kissed Jesus. Mt 26:49
- Judas said, “Master, master,” and kissed Jesus. Mk 14:45
- Judas “drew near unto Jesus to kiss him,” but Jesus asked, “Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?” Lk 22:47–48
- There is no mention of Judas kissing Jesus. Jn 18:5

THE SWORD

- Jesus told the disciple who cut off the ear of the High Priest’s servant to put his sword away. Mt 26:52
- There is no mention of Jesus saying anything to the disciple who cut off the High Priest’s servant’s ear. Mk 14:47
- Disciples asked Jesus whether they should “smite with the sword,” and Jesus answered “Suffer ye thus far,” after one cut off the High Priest’s servant’s right ear. Lk 22:49
- Jesus told Peter to put away his sword after he cut off the right ear of Malchus, the High Priest’s servant. Jn 18:10–11

THE HEALING

- There is no mention of Jesus healing the servant’s ear. Mt 26:51
- Jesus healed the servant’s ear by touching it with his finger. Mk 14:47 JST
- There is no mention of Jesus healing the servant’s ear. Mk 14:47
- Jesus healed the servant’s ear. Lk 22:51
- There is no mention of Jesus healing the servant’s ear. Jn 18:11

THE HIGH PRIEST

- The crowd took Jesus to Caiaphas, the High Priest. Mt 26:57–58
- The crowd took Jesus to the High Priest. Mk 14:53
- The crowd took Jesus to the house of the High Priest. Lk 22:54
- The crowd took Jesus to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the High Priest. Jn 18:13