

**3 March 2024 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group**  
**“Jesus Faces Betrayal and More” -- Matthew 26:47-75**

Questions to Answer from the Text:

1. What signal did Judas use to indicate to the authorities who came to arrest Jesus which one among the disciples He was (v. 48)?
2. What foolish and reckless act to defend Jesus did one of the disciples do (v. 51)?
3. What protest did Jesus raise to the priests and elders when they came to seize and arrest Him as they did (v. 55)?
4. When Jesus was led away to be questioned and tried, which of Jesus’ disciples followed at a distance (v. 58)?
5. What outcome did the authorities who arrested Jesus plan? How did the chief priests and the Council of Elders (Sanhedrin) go about doing this? Were their initial efforts successful (vv. 59-60)?
6. What was the “evidence” that the chief priests and elders heard that led them to convict Jesus (vv. 63-65)?
7. Once the Council (Sanhedrin) convicted Jesus as worthy of death, how did they treat Him (vv. 67-68)?
8. Where was Peter at the time that Jesus was being interrogated by the Council (v. 69)?
9. What was Peter asked by those who were with him (vv. 69b, 71, 73)?
10. How did Peter respond to those who asked him if he was with Jesus (vv. 70, 72, 74)?
11. What happened the last time Peter answered as he did? Why was this significant (vv. 74b-75a)?
12. How did Peter react to his denial of Jesus after the third time (v. 75b)?

Questions to Ponder and Reflect upon the Teaching and Applications Based on the Text:

13. Throughout this episode, from Jesus’ arrest to His “trial” before the Sanhedrin, how helpless and swept up in the tide of events was Jesus?
14. Is the arrest, trial, conviction, and crucifixion of Jesus the most heinous and wicked act in human history? Why or why not?
15. If the Gospel is “Jesus died for sins according to the Scriptures,” what does “You never outgrow the Gospel” mean? Don’t Christians progress in maturity beyond this to other spiritual things?
16. How many times do you think you need to reread the accounts of Jesus’ passion and reflect on what it means? Is it helpful or harmful that Christians do this at least yearly? Why or why not?
17. What ironies do you find in Jesus’ trial before the Sanhedrin?

18. Have you ever seen a lamb slaughtered? If so, what was it like? If not, what do you imagine it would be like? What is typically unique about the way a lamb dies when it is killed?
19. How does silence concerning Jesus – about Who He is and what He has done – in essence convict Him unjustly?
20. If you profess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Redeemer, what keeps you from turning your back on Him and denying Him? Can you be forgiven if you deny Jesus after professing Him as Lord?