

united kingdom

JESUS' ARREST
AND TRIAL

the Kingdom story from creation to revelation

(John 18:1-11, 33-38; 19:1-16;
Matthew 26:57-67; 27:1-2; Luke 23:2)

Jesus is betrayed and accused, and He fulfils Scripture by being unjustly tried and convicted without saying anything. However, it becomes obvious that He is a King ... of a different sort.

Introduction

Judas left the meal Jesus had with His followers. Now, Jesus and the other followers are praying in a garden.



Arrest

Judas arrives with armed soldiers. Jesus asks who they are looking for. "Jesus," they reply. "I AM He," Jesus says.

Jesus before the religious leaders

Jesus is taken to the home of the man in charge of the religious leaders. Two men bring a charge against Jesus. The leaders ask, "Are you the Promised King?" Jesus says yes, and the head religious leader tears his clothes in horror as the others spit in Jesus' face and beat Him.



Transition to the governor

The religious leaders plot how to justify taking Jesus to the governor to ask for Him to be executed. They take Him, saying that Jesus is claiming to be a King.

Jesus before the governor

Governor: Are you King of these people?

Jesus: My Kingdom is not here. If it were, my followers would fight for Me.

Governor: So you're a King?

Jesus: You've said it! I came to show everyone the truth – and those that love truth will recognise it.

Governor: What is truth?



Jesus is flogged



Jesus is flogged with a lead-tipped whip. The soldiers put a crown of thorns and a purple robe on Him. They mock Him.

Governor tries to let him go

The governor tries to let Jesus go, but the people insist that He be executed. The governor asks Jesus to answer the charges:

Governor: I have the power to release or execute You.

Jesus: You would have no power over Me at all unless it was given to you from God Himself.

Governor gives in

The governor tries again to release Jesus, but as the people are insistent and the governor is afraid of them, he turns Jesus over to them to be executed.



Weekly Meditation and Reflection

Below are some questions and further reading if you would like some extra food for thought on this story. Some may find it helpful to journal the answers, and others may simply want to read and pray through them.

1. Tell this story again to yourself. Pay attention to the way Jesus reacted at each step: in the garden, in front of the religious leaders, in front of the governor, etc. What do His reactions tell us about Him? What do they tell us about His relationship with His Father? What do they tell us about His understanding of His purpose? What kept Jesus from turning around and running the other way or defending Himself? What keeps you going in your determination to know God better? Do you need more determination and more understanding of your purpose and goal? Ask Him for it!
2. As you meditate on this story, think about what Jesus went through at each step – betrayal and desertion from His followers, spitting, mocking, flogging, and public humiliation. Tell Him thank you for what He went through for you.

Meditate on the following passages:

1. Isaiah 53
2. Matthew 26:36-27:31
3. Mark 14:32-15:20
4. Luke 22:39-23:25