

The Gospel of John

The Arrest of Christ

John 18:1-27

The hour has come for the Son of Man to be arrested and tried in preparation for the crucifixion. The events move swiftly now as cross approaches. Amid these events is the sad betrayal by one of Christ's closest disciples.

The Setting

- Very late on Tuesday night into early Wednesday morning, 14th of Nisan
- The Garden of Gethsemane (means "oil press") is located on the western slopes of the Mount of Olives.

The Story

- The Arrest – vs. 1-9
 - Christ and the disciples enter the Garden – vs. 1
 - Judas leads a group of Jewish leaders and Roman soldiers to Christ – vs. 2-3
 - Christ addresses the crowd, who fall back at His voice – vs. 4-6
 - Christ addresses the crowd again, surrendering Himself but asking that the disciples be let go – vs. 7-8
 - His care for the disciples fulfills His own prophecy, see 17:12 – vs. 9
- Peter's Sword – vs. 10-11
 - Peter defends Christ with violence and cuts off Malchus' right ear – vs. 10
 - All four Gospels record the attack, but only Luke 22:51 records the healing.
 - Christ rebukes Peter for interfering with God's plan – vs. 11
- Christ led to the High Priest – vs. 12-14
 - Jesus is arrested – vs. 12
 - Taken to Annas' house, for questioning – vs. 13
 - Annas was the former High Priest and the most powerful religious leader.
 - The plan of Caiphas is in effect, see 11:49-52 – vs. 14
- Peter's First Denial – vs. 15-18
 - Peter and John follow Christ – vs. 15
 - John has access and allows Peter to get in also – vs. 16
 - Peter denies Christ to the servant at the door – vs. 17
 - Peter falls in with the enemy – vs. 18
- The Interrogation before the Priests – vs. 19-24
 - They question what He has taught – vs. 19
 - Christ responds that they already know – vs. 20-21
 - An officer strikes Christ, an illegal action – vs. 22
 - Christ responds that there is no cause for this – vs. 23

- Christ is sent to the current High Priest, Caiphas – vs. 24
 - This is the trial before the Sanhedrin in Matthew 27:1-2, Luke 22:66-71, Mark 15:1.
- The Second and Third Denials by Peter – vs. 25-27
 - Peter denies the second time to a person by the fire – vs. 25
 - A kinsman of Malchus confronts Peter – vs. 26
 - Peter denies for the third time, and the cock crows – vs. 27
 - Fulfills the words of Christ in 13:36-38.
 - Mark 14:30 says the cock would crow twice. The difference is immaterial. The rooster crows to signal the dawn. Peter would deny Christ three times before the dawn, which is powerfully marked by the simultaneous crowing of the rooster.
 - See Luke 22:61-62 for the full account of Peter's reaction.