

## WHEN JESUS KNOCKED JUDAS DOWN

**INTRODUCTION**

John 18:1-27 describes the time when Jesus was betrayed at the hands of Judas Iscariot who brought with him a “Roman cohort.” While the opinions vary, some scholars claim that this could have been a small crowd that numbered anywhere from 600-1,000 men and yet verse 6 says that Jesus caused them all to “fall to the ground.” He knocked them over which is what we are going to talk about this morning by looking at “4 Stages to the Arrest of Jesus.”

**1). The Arrival of Judas (verses 1-3).**

Verses 1-3 says, *“When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples ... Judas then, having received the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.”*

Discussion Question A: Explain this passage in your own words.

Discussion Question B: The sermon mentioned several other things that happened in the Garden of Gethsemane. What were they and what sort of impact did they have on Jesus? What impact did Judas’ betrayal have on Him?

**2). The Response of Jesus (verses 4-6).**

Verses 4-6 says, *“So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, ‘Whom do you seek?’ They answered Him, ‘Jesus the Nazarene.’ He said to them, ‘I am He.’ And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. So when He said to them, ‘I am He,’ they drew back and fell to the ground.”*

Discussion Question A: Why did Jesus cause this crowd to fall to the ground?

Discussion Question B: Why did He say “I am He” and what did this statement have to do with the name Yahweh?

### **3). The Abandonment of Jesus (verses 7-11).**

Verses 7-11 says, *“Therefore He again asked them, ‘Whom do you seek?’ And they said, ‘Jesus the Nazarene.’ Jesus answered, ‘I told you that I am He; so if you seek Me, let these go their way,’ to fulfill the word which He spoke, ‘Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one.’ Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave’s name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter, ‘Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?’ [At which point, all of the Disciples abandoned Him].”*

Discussion Question A: What caused all of the disciples to abandon Jesus in the Garden?

Discussion Question B: How could Peter abandon Him after trying to defend Him so zealously? What did Jesus mean when He told Peter to put his sword into the sheath?

### **4). The Fall-Out (verses 12-27).**

Verses 12-13, 25-27 says, *“So the Roman cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year ... Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, ‘You are not also one of His disciples, are you?’ He denied it, and said, ‘I am not.’ One of the slaves of the high priest, being a relative of the one whose ear Peter cut off, said, ‘Did I not see you in the garden with Him?’ Peter then denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.”*

Discussion Question A: What kind of man was Annas and how did that influence the type of trial that he put Jesus through here?

Discussion Question B: How did that influence Peter’s behavior? Was Peter scared as he watched Jesus being questioned? How was he later restored after making this big mistake?