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The Upper Room Discourse
About 10:00 pm on Friday Evening



Time was running short. In the Upper Room **Jesus** gave **His** final instructions to **His eleven talmidim**. **He** would be leaving **them** to go to a place **they** could not follow. **The bulk of Yeshua's teaching here is in response to four different specific questions asked by Peter, Thomas, Philip and Thaddaeus.** It was getting close to 10 pm and **Caiaphas** waited for **Pontius Pilate** outside the double gates of **his** headquarters. **He** was impatient. Very impatient. This thing that had to be done needed to be completed at once and quietly. But to avoid ceremonial uncleanness **Caiaphas** and **the chief of the Temple guard** did not enter the praetorium because **they** did not want to be defiled. So, reluctantly, **Pilate** came out to **them** and asked them what **they** wanted. **The** two **men** needed each other to survive **their** uneasy peace. So the willingness of **the** two **schemers** tended to cancel each other out evenly. Each understood the strategic treachery of the other. Each understood that this **Nazarene** was a pawn in a much bigger game. The fight was over power. **Caiaphas** and **Annas** for the retention of power in Jerusalem – and **Pilate** to bring the Jews to heel.

According to **Roman** law, **Judas** needed to be present to make the accusation. So **the high priest** called **Judas** to **his** side and watched **the money-keeper's** great deference with scorn. **Caiaphas** was shrewd. **He** knew that if **Judas** would actually live with someone who claimed to be **the Messiah** and then betray **him** for next to nothing, then **Judas**, if given the opportunity, would betray **the high priest** for an

even smaller sum.

Caiaphas had to think of all the possibilities. **He** ordered **Judas** to lead the arresting party to the house of the feast, and to make sure that **he** pointed out the right man to the Roman soldiers. **He** envisioned some confusion when the raid was in progress, and **he** did not want **the Nazarene** to escape. If **he** slipped through the net tonight, **he** might flee to Galilee or the wilderness and not be seen in Tziyon again until the high holy days of the autumn.

Moreover, **the high priest** did not want to arrest **Jesus'** followers this night. They were merely sheep and would scatter at the first sign of attack on the shepherd. **He** had instructed the chief of **the Temple guard** only to threaten them with arrest. That would be enough. Roman law must be followed and **he** wanted only one person to be judged. It would be far better if the small band were able to tell **His** followers that **He** had been arrested, tried and convicted of blasphemy. Then this new cult would die out, the people would return to worship at **the Temple** where they belonged and this nightmare would be over at last.

Judas said that the Passover feast would probably continue for another hour or so. It should be simple enough to surround the house and to send a raiding party up the outside stairs – there was no other exit – and then **he** would lead a detachment of soldiers into the room to arrest **Him**.

Exploring all the possibilities, **Caiaphas** had demanded an alternate plan apart from **Judas'** if **Jesus** had escaped from the upper room. **He** asked **Judas** where the most likely places to find **him** would be. **The betrayer** said that **the renegade rabbi** would probably go to the garden of Gethsemane at the foot of the Mount of Olives, because when **Yeshua** was in Jerusalem **he** often slept there with **his** men. Should **he** not be there, the soldiers should go to Bethany to the home of Martha and Mary, because that was the only other place **Jesus** would sleep. And as Bethany was only three miles from where **the high priest** stood, the arrest could be made long before dawn and the awakening of the City.

Caiaphas was pleased. So long as **the criminal** was surely in either the Upper Room, Gethsemane or the home of Martha and Mary, there was little cause to worry. It would, of course, simplify everything if **Jesus** was caught in the Upper Room, resist arrest, and receive a Roman spear through the heart as a result. This would take the onus off of **him** and the Sanhedrin. The thousands of followers of **Jesus** in and around Jerusalem could then spew their venom on the Romans, an

ideal situation for **the high priest**.

Still, resistance was hardly to be expected, unless **the Jewish leaders** had read **their man** incorrectly. The counterfeit **Messiah** preached love, non-violence and forgiveness. Thus, these traits did not lend themselves to an early morning brawl with **Roman** soldiers. But **Pilate's** gesture of sending a cohort of soldiers may have been an act of deliberate sarcasm. It was like sending a major general and two brigades to apprehend a child.[1420]

The procurator and **Caiaphas** had already agreed on a plan (**to see link click Kk – The Third Cup of Redemption**). The Roman cohort would leave Fortress Antonia and meet **the Temple guard** at the home of **the high priest**. From there **they** would travel a few blocks to the south and take **the troublemaking Rabbi** into custody. If **He** wasn't in the Upper Room, **they** knew where to look next.