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Rise! Let Us Go! Here Comes My Betrayer!
Matthew 26:45-46 and Mark 14:41-42
About 1:30 am Friday morning, the fifteenth of Nisan

The night air was still. In **the garden of Gethsemane**, the leaves of the trees hung quietly. The day before, all day long, there had been the sounds of the Passover pilgrims walking the Bethany road to the Temple. But now all was silent. If **Yeshua** had looked up from where **He** was praying, **He** would have seen the Golden Gate (or the Beautiful Gate), on the east side of Jerusalem. The moon was full and sat like a huge orange on the mountains of Moab and the Temple was hung like a silhouette. Even the brook flowing through Kidron, black and cold, moved quietly over its round stones on its way to the Valley of ben Hinnom.

Some **Pharisees, the** Jewish **Temple guard** and **a cohort of** 500 **Roman soldiers** left the huge courtyard adjoining the homes of both **Caiaphas** and **Annas** led by **Judas**. Ordinarily **a cohort** consisted of 500 **men**, or one-tenth of a 5,000 man Roman legion. **They** traveled the same route that **Jesus** and **the apostles** had traveled earlier to **the Garden**. **They** marched directly east to the Lower City, then north through the Valley Gate and hugged the base of the southern wall of the Temple Mount, past the pinnacle of the Temple, then along the eastern

wall, past the Golden Gate. Caiaphas would not tolerate the Roman soldiers entering the Huldah Gates into holy

ground. Each **man** carried either a club or a sword, and some also had a torch or lantern that cut through the night. **The mob** left the walls of Tziyon and walked down the sheer steps leading to the Kidron Valley and up the other side.

These were certainly strange bedfellows. No one had ever seen **Pharisees** marching with **Roman soldiers (John 18:3)**. *The separate ones* would have nothing to do with Gentile Romans, since they proclaimed religious purity above everything else. And there was no doubt that the legionnaires had never marched with the priestly Sadducees. Each of those groups had reason to distrust the other. They were, however, momentary allies and all three were led by **Judas** Iscariot, one of **the criminal's** own followers.[1497]

The cohort of **Romans soldiers** had been preparing as if to go to war, and **Judas** had been making arrangements with **the high priest**. **They** all agreed that **the Rabbi from Galilee** was a threat and **they** were willing, for this one time, to overlook **their** differences to act as one. There was a flurry of activity behind the scenes, but now all was ready. Everything had been thought out ahead of time.

It was a simple plan. Nobody there cared about the other **apostles**. **They** just wanted **Jesus, the One** who was causing all of **them** problems. The pack of **soldiers** marched down into the valley, and, when they reached near the bottom, **Judas** pulled aside **the representatives** of the Sanhedrin, the captain of **the Temple guard** and the Roman **tribute**. **He** had an idea. When **they** reached **Gethsemane**, **he** would identify **the criminal** with a **kiss**. **The one I kiss is the man,** said **Judas, arrest Him and lead Him away (Matthew 26:48; Mark 14:44).**

In **the garden of Gethsemane**, **Messiah** got to **His** feet. **His** face was once again peaceful and dignified. **Then He returned the third time to Peter, James and John and said to them: Are you still sleeping and resting?** Through the olive trees **He** could see the line of **men** with torches approaching from across the Kidron Valley. As **they** drew closer **the Anointed One** could hear the clank of metal shields and swords, and the murmur of many voices. **Yeshua ha-Meshiach** said to **His** slumbering **talmidim: Look, the hour has come and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes My betrayer (Matthew 26:45-46; Mark 14:41b-42)!** And then **He** went out to meet them. The **cup** descended, unforeseen by any eye but **His**. **He** took it willingly from **His Father**. **Yeshua** understood that with this **cup He** would finish what **He** was born to do. Alone. Therefore, in **Gethsemane**, **the Son of God** waited for a **kiss**

from the lips of **His betrayer**.