

Our Lord's Final Hours Before Calvary

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The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- 1 Corinthians 11:23b-26 (NIV)

After the Last Supper Jesus led the apostles to the Garden of Gethsemane where he agonized in prayer over his coming betrayal and death on a Roman cross. Also see Matthew 26:36-56, Mark 14:32-42 and Luke 22:39-46.

Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives:

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

- Luke 22:39-46 (NIV)

While he was in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot as he had predicted earlier in the evening while at the Last Supper in the Upper Room. Peter cut off the ear of Malchus, one of the high priests' guards. Jesus told Peter that those who lived by the sword would die by the sword and healed the guards ear. He was then taken before Annas and then Caiaphas, the high priest and the Jewish religious leaders (called the Sanhedrin /SAN-HEED-RIN/ or the Council). Peter denied knowing Jesus three times as Jesus had predicted. Even the detail of the rooster crowing came true.

Jesus was then taken before the Roman prelate or governor Pontius Pilate. Pilate attempted to release Jesus but the Jewish people would not hear of it. Pilate tried sending Jesus to the Jewish ruler Herod Antipas but Herod sent Jesus back to Pontius Pilate. They demanded Jesus' crucifixion and asked Pilate to release Barabbas, a common criminal charged with murder. Jesus was scourged (beaten with leather straps with imbedded pieces of wire or metal), mocked, crowned with a wreath of thorns and marched out to

Golgotha, Aramaic for the Place of Skulls, or Calvary in Latin. There he was crucified and all Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled to the very minutest details of soldiers casting lots for his clothing, not a bone being broken and piercing his side with a spear.

After his death, burial and resurrection Jesus appeared to the women at the tomb and his apostles many times during the next forty days. Jesus told them they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days (on Pentecost.) Then Jesus was taken up to heaven in a cloud. This is known as the Ascension of Jesus Christ. Two angels told the apostles that Jesus would return as he had left. The apostles chose Matthias to replace Judas the traitor. See Acts 1:1-26.