

*Biblical Drama based on John 18:1-14**Character Parts: Narrators 1-9, Jesus, Judas, Officer, Peter, Malchus*

Narrator 1: After the Last Supper, Jesus knew the end was coming. So he took his disciples out of Jerusalem and across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden called Gethsemane (*geth-SEM-a-nee*).

Jesus: Stay here while I pray.

Narrator 2: Judas, the disciple who had decided to betray Jesus, knew that Jesus would be in the garden because he often met there with his friends. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Judas: Come this way. No one will see us. I will go in first and show you which one is Jesus. The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.

Narrator 3: So Judas went forward and greeted Jesus with a kiss on the cheek.

Judas: Greetings, Rabbi!

Jesus: Friend, do what you are here to do.

Narrator 4: Jesus knew what Judas was really there for. So he stepped forward and asked the soldiers.

Jesus: Who are you looking for?

Officer: We want to know which of you is Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus: I am.

Narrator 5: When Jesus said to them, "I am" they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them.

Jesus: Who are you looking for?

Officer: Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus: I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.

Narrator 6: This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken earlier:

Jesus: I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.

Narrator 7: But just then, Simon Peter drew his sword and struck the high priest's slave, cutting off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus (*MAL-kuss*).

Peter: Everybody back off, or you'll have to take me on!

Malchus: Oh, look at the big tough guy! He attacks the only unarmed man in the group! That was my good ear, you know.

Jesus: No more of this! Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve armies of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?

Narrator 8: Right then, Jesus touched the man's ear and healed him. Then he spoke to those who had come to arrest him.

Jesus: Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

Narrator 9: Then all the disciples deserted Jesus and fled. The soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. They took him to the house of the high priest to put him on trial, because they wanted to have Jesus killed.