

I. Why was Jesus of Nazareth arrested?

- A. What was Jesus doing? baptism Luke 3:1-17; ministry in Galilee and Judea 4:14-19:27; sending out disciples 9:1-6; 10:1-20; criticism of the Pharisees 11:37-12:3; 15:1-32; 16:14-18; 18:9-14; in Jerusalem 19:28 on; cf. Zechariah 9:9-10
- B. How did this threaten the authorities or their goals?
- C. The authorities *believe that Jesus is a threat to public peace* (see John 11:48)
- D. The authorities are *personally insulted and humiliated*
- E. The authorities are *protecting their own business interests*
- F. The authorities are *angry at Jesus' bold criticism* (cf. crit. of Pharisees; also 20:1-21:4)
- G. What did the authorities intend to do to Jesus? (John 11:47-52 vs. Luke 13:31; John 5:18; 7:1ff.; 8:59; 10:31)

II. Why did Judas betray Jesus?

- A. Love of wealth (John 11:3-6; Matthew 26:15)
- B. Unbelief in God, the gospel, or the kingdom (Luke 16:13; Matthew 25:40; John 12:6; Matthew 6:33)
- C. Personal security
- D. Satan "entered into Judas" (1 John 5:19)

III. Why did Satan want Jesus killed?

- A. Satan is fighting back (cf. Luke 20; cf. attempts on his life)
- B. Satan is a traitor
- C. Attacking Jesus is attacking God (cf. Job 1:6-12; 2:1-8)
- D. Attacking Jesus is attacking humankind
- E. Satan is compelled by his very nature to strike at the Messiah (Genesis 3:15)
- F. Doesn't he know what will happen?! (Mark 1:21-28)

IV. Why did God let this happen?

- A. Does this question bother you?
- B. Every enemy unwittingly plays a role:
 - i. The chief priests offer the only sacrifice for sins that counts (John 11:47-52)
 - ii. Judas does what we are all guilty of, for we are rebels and traitors (Matthew 26:14-16; cf. Zechariah 11)
 - iii. Satan fills the role of the prosecutor (Isaiah 53:6)
- C. God *didn't* "let it happen." (Acts 2:22-24,36)
- D. The betrayal of Jesus looked like defeat, but it meant victory. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)