

Context

1] Jesus, the night before he was crucified, after his last meal with the disciples, went out of the city as usual to the mount of olives.

2] Anticipating all that was to happen the next day, he prayed there, it says, in agony (22:44)

Intro 'Pull a fast one' – surprise or catch a person out in a deal
Can you pull a fast one on God

47 While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them.

Nb Jesus was just saying to his sleepy disciples – 'Rise up and pray that you may not enter into temptation' (46)

Temptation comes upon you suddenly and unexpectedly – be prepared. Be awake - ready to resist!

Nb Luke doesn't call him Judas Iscariot (22:3) but 'a man called Judas, one of the 12' – cold impersonal accusing

Never think that you can betray Jesus/ get the better of Him

He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, **48** but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Nb Luke 'drew near' -i.e. he went to kiss Jesus but Jesus spoke to him BEFORE he could do it

God knows what you will do before you do it

49 And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" **50** And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. **51** But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.

Nb - here was one of the 2 swords they had that they had offered Jesus in vs 38 misunderstanding him

**Do not try and defend Jesus – he doesn't need it! **

*The High Priest servant must have been carrying out the will of this group i.e. arresting Jesus
? Interesting the right ear - why the detail? Must have been a left handed sword's man?*

Not by might nor by power but by my Spirit' says the Lord (Zech 4:6)

"No more of this" - Jesus commands and everyone/everything obeys

52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs? **53** 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."

Nb it was a full turn out of all the Temple power base -chief priest, officers of the Temple and the elders

Cf "darkness" – next day, when Jesus was being crucified, the whole land went dark (23:44)

God is in control of time – he gives darkness its hour

54 Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. **55** And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. *Nb Peter at centre of courtyard. Jesus who could see Peter, must have been held on the edge in the cold.*

56 Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." **57** But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." **58** And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." **59** And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." **60** But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." *Nb He denied Jesus starting with a refutation of very benign observation by an inconsequential servant girl*

Cf Jesus first tempted to make the stone into bread BEFORE bowing to worship Satan (Luke 4:3FF)

Be aware - Temptation often begins with 'the thin end of the wedge'!

And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. **61** And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times."

62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

Cf Jesus had predicted this earlier in the evening (22:34)

Nb Jesus must have been close but Peter was not looking at him

Never avoid his gaze / pretend that you do not know Jesus

**Are you denying Jesus - weep bitterly **

63 Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him. **64** They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?" **65** And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.

Nb seriousness – 'blaspheming' that is crime against God and is denying God his rightful place (E.g. Jesus claiming to forgive sin if He isn't God (Mk2:7))

Nb no retaliation by Jesus? -during crucifixion Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing (23:34)

God is blasphemed and he doesn't respond – yet. He will do in judgement one day

Do not mock Jesus – he may appear weak but He is the lion of Judah (Rev 5:5)

Conclusion

- 1] Can you pull a fast one on God? – no you can't – fix your eyes on Jesus.
- 2] Are there areas in your life where you ignore Jesus? – You don't let him catch your eye? Remember everywhere you go, he is there.
- 3] Be very careful how you treat Jesus now – one day you will be judged by Him

KV *And the Lord turned and looked at Peter*

MP *The Lord sees and knows and is in control of all things*