incumbered in this body of flesh, yet the Spirit always calls us to that alertness and vigilance of wisdom. Consider even now how we must constantly watch and pray that we stand ready in the battle of our daily Christian life. “39 And again He went away and prayed, saying the same words. 40 And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. 41 And He came the third time, and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest?" Even after repeated waking and reproof by the Lord, yet the disciples cannot seem to muster themselves from their slumber. Convicted yet drowsy, “they did not know how to answer Him.” Indeed, they were ashamed of their drowsiness, and had nothing to say in excuse for it. Often times in the cloud of spiritual conflict or testing, we find ourselves distracted or weak in our ability to remain focused or diligent. Also take note here, three times Peter failed to watch and pray; three times he would fall into temptation and disown Jesus. At a time when we ought to be most aware and alert, we find ourselves in the slumber of weakness or complacency. Yet Jesus our Master and Shepherd is close at hand, always protecting and interceding for us. Matthew Henry comments on Jesus vigilance here; “Thus he gave a specimen of his continued care for his church on earth, even when it is half asleep, and not duly concerned for itself, while he ever lives making intercession with his Father in heaven.” End quote. As much as we would like to muster the strength and discipline to be spiritually vigilant at all times, yet we will always find the Lord to be all that we need, even in the weakness of our flesh. Jesus having petitioned God these three times has apparently settled the matter in His heart and mind. “41 It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.” The time for Jesus to bear the consequences of trial and judgment for our sins is upon Him as the “hour has come.” The scene will now abruptly change as Jesus’ enemies converge upon Him. He will now, by Divine Providence come into the “hands of sinners” and be brought under the control of sinful men. The sinless Son of God will be condemned as common criminal, and this with the bitter sting of a friend’s betrayal. “42 "Arise, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!" Judas knowing the place where Jesus resorts with His disciples, now brings Jesus’ enemies to that place and carries out the act of betrayal so that the Scripture will be fulfilled.

Mark 14:43-52 - 43 And immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up, accompanied by a multitude with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. 44 Now he who was betraying Him had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one; seize Him, and lead Him away under guard." 45 And after coming, he immediately went to Him, saying, "Rabbi!" and kissed Him. 46 And they laid hands on Him, and seized Him.
47 But a certain one of those who stood by drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear. 48 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me, as against a robber? 49 "Every day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me; but this has happened that the Scriptures might be fulfilled." 50 And they all left Him and fled. 51 And a certain young man was following Him, wearing nothing but a linen sheet over his naked body; and they seized him. 52 But he left the linen sheet behind, and escaped naked.

Judas arrives with an armed Temple guard who have come to seize Jesus. Can you imagine the scene as Judas leads the way to find Jesus in the darkness of night? The premeditated plan to aid in the arrest of Jesus, and the steadfast will to carry it through to the end, and all of this for a mere 30 pieces of silver, reveals the sinful calloused heart of Judas. Blinded by the power of greed, he will take this violent mob to pounce upon his gentle Rabbi and friend. “42 "Arise, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!" 43 And immediately while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, came up, accompanied by a multitude with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.” This “multitude with swords and clubs” included, some “chief priests,” the armed Temple “officers,” and even a “Roman cohort” of soldiers.

Luke 22:52-53 - 52 And Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders who had come against Him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as against a robber? 53 "While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but this hour and the power of darkness are yours." NASB

John 18:2-3 - 2 Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place; for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. 3 Judas then, having received the Roman cohort, and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. NASB

This was no small happening as the chief priests would have had to obtain permission from the Roman authorities for such a “cohort” to accompany them on an arrest. That process alone was quite an undertaking and one wonders who was bribed to make that happen in the darkness of night. But see here the religious rulers have gone to great lengths to bring Jesus under their murderous plan. Now comes that famous kiss of death whereby Judas will, even with a show of affection, betray His Rabbi to death. “44 Now he who was betraying Him had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one; seize Him, and lead Him away under guard." 45 And after coming, he immediately went to Him, saying, "Rabbi!" and kissed Him. 46 And they laid hands on Him, and seized Him.” Jesus in His compassion would yet help Judas to see his folly.
Luke 22:48 - 48 But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" NASB

And yet, calloused and driven by greed, Judas will betray the Son of God with a kiss. Now this of course will result in great remorse on Judas part, once he realizes what has happened and Jesus had been condemned. Matthew records the scene.

Matthew 27:3-5 - 3 Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!" 5 And he threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself. NASB

So awful was Judas remorse that "he went away and hanged himself." This was a tragic end indeed for that disciple who walked with Jesus for some 3 plus years. All of this fulfilled what the Scriptures had said concerning Judas.

Matthew 27:6-10 - 6 And the chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood." 7 And they counseled together and with the money bought the Potter's Field as a burial place for strangers. 8 For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9 Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one whose price had been set by the sons of Israel; 10 and they gave them for the Potter's Field, as the Lord directed me." NASB

So as Judas identified Jesus, “they laid hands on Him, and seized Him.” At this the disciples were alarmed and stepping forward in defense, one of them drew his sword to defend Jesus. “47 But a certain one of those who stood by drew his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear.” John identifies this as Jesus.

John 18:10 - 10 Simon Peter therefore having a sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. NASB

And at this of course, Jesus in complete control of the moment, in His compassion and resolute mind to let them take Him, heals the ear of Malchus. Luke records the healing.

Luke 22:51 - 51 But Jesus answered and said, "Stop! No more of this." And He touched his ear and healed him. NASB

At this the Lord seeks to show them the great shame of their deeds done in the darkness of night. “48 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me, as against a robber? 49 "Every day I
was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me; but this has happened that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.” Jesus unmasks their conspiracy which they were not content to carry out in broad daylight in the Temple courts. But all of this they have done under the cover of night so that their dark conspiracy could be brought to its end and Jesus could be unlawfully put to death by them. At this the disciples realized Jesus would be taken by force into custody and Mark records, “50 And they all left Him and fled.” Jesus earlier prophecy in 14:27 of their falling away is fulfilled here just a few hours later. Even though they all had said in 14:31 that like Peter that they would not fall away, yet when pressed by the fear and danger of arrest, they all “they all left Him and fled.” And so at the betrayal of a close friend, and the abandonment of all His friends, Jesus is now led away all alone to face His enemies, and Jesus knows all that is about to come upon Him.

John 18:4-5 - 4 Jesus therefore, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth, and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" 5 They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am He." And Judas also who was betraying Him, was standing with them. NASB

See here that Jesus the Good Shepherd will lay down His life for His sheep. Emerging from the agony of prayer in Gethsemane (the press of olives), Jesus now resolutely and willingly goes headlong into the hands of wicked men to be mistreated, mocked, and falsely condemned. John records that He does this by the command of His Father.

John 10:14-18 - 14 "I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 "And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd. 17 "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father." NASB

Here at the arrest of Jesus, Mark adds what many consider to be an odd scene in the text, for it appears without an answer to the question that it brings. “51 And a certain young man was following Him, wearing nothing but a linen sheet over his naked body; and they seized him. 52 But he left the linen sheet behind, and escaped naked.” Many have sought to identify this person, and usually they will say it is Mark himself. It may be that Mark is trying to say he was an eyewitness of these things. Yet in the text, he does not identify himself and we are left to conclude that the Lord would have us rest in the fact that we do not know who it is. Any guess would be mere conjecture. The scene will now grow even darker.