

# Matthew 26:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

## Analysis

**And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came** (Καὶ ἔτι αὐτοῦ λαλοῦντος ἰδοὺ Ἰούδας εἷς τῶν δώδεκα ἦλθεν)—The phrase ἔτι αὐτοῦ λαλοῦντος ('while He was still speaking') shows immediate fulfillment—Jesus announced the betrayer's arrival (v. 46), and Judas appeared. The designation εἷς τῶν δώδεκα ('one of the twelve') emphasizes betrayal's heinousness—not an outsider but an intimate companion. John 13:18 quotes Psalm 41:9: 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' Judas's treachery from within the apostolic circle wounds deepest.

**And with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people** (καὶ μετ' αὐτοῦ ὄχλος πολὺς μετὰ μαχαίρων καὶ ξύλων ἀπὸ τῶν ἀρχιερέων καὶ πρεσβυτέρων τοῦ λαοῦ)—The ὄχλος πολὺς ('great crowd') armed with μάχαιρα (swords) and ξύλον (clubs, staves) came from religious authorities, not Romans (they appear later). The excessive force suggests they expected resistance—ironic, since Jesus submitted voluntarily. The religious establishment's violence exposes their hypocrisy—they killed while claiming to serve God.

## Historical Context

John 18:3 adds that the group included a Roman cohort (σπεῖρα, 600 soldiers) and temple police. The chief priests and elders sent this force, showing they

orchestrated the arrest. Arresting Jesus at night in a secluded location avoided daytime crowds who might riot (26:5). The Passover moon provided light. Judas's leadership of the arresting party fulfilled Jesus's predictions (26:21-25, 45-46). The 'swords and clubs' imagery recalls Jesus's later rebuke (26:55): 'Have you come out as against a robber?'

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does betrayal by an insider (Judas, 'one of the twelve') hurt more deeply than opposition from obvious enemies?
2. What does the excessive force at Jesus's arrest reveal about the relationship between institutional religion and violence?

## Interlinear Text

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|               |       |               |           |       |                   |         |       |
|---------------|-------|---------------|-----------|-------|-------------------|---------|-------|
| καὶ           | ἔτι   | αὐτοῦ         | λαλοῦντος | ἰδοῦ, | Ἰούδας            | εἷς     | τῶν   |
| And           | while | he            | spake     | lo    | Judas             | one     | G3588 |
| G2532         | G2089 | G846          | G2980     | G2400 | G2455             | G1520   |       |
| δώδεκα        | ἦλθεν | καὶ           | μετὰ      | αὐτοῦ | ὄχλος             | πολὺς   | μετὰ  |
| of the twelve | came  | And           | with      | he    | multitude         | a great | with  |
| G1427         | G2064 | G2532         | G3326     | G846  | G3793             | G4183   | G3326 |
| μαχαίρων      | καὶ   | ξύλων         | ἀπὸ       | τῶν   | ἀρχιερέων         | καὶ     |       |
| swords        | And   | staves        | from      | G3588 | the chief priests | And     |       |
| G3162         | G2532 | G3586         | G575      |       | G749              | G2532   |       |
| πρεσβυτέρων   | τοῦ   | λαοῦ          |           |       |                   |         |       |
| elders        | G3588 | of the people |           |       |                   |         |       |
| G4245         |       | G2992         |           |       |                   |         |       |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 1:16** (Word): Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

**Matthew 26:55** (Word): In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.

**Matthew 26:14** (Parallel theme): Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,

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