

## WERE YOU THERE WHEN THEY CRUCIFIED OUR LORD? MEDITATIONS ON CALVARY

### EXCERPT FROM CHAPTER TWO: Interactive Scripture Reading

*Assign readers for the parts of JUDAS, PETER, and JOHN. Everyone reads the verses for THE TWELVE.*

**JUDAS:** Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went off to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them. They were pleased to hear what he had to say, and promised to give him money. So Judas started looking for a good chance to hand Jesus over to them (Mark 14:10–11).

**THE TWELVE:** [On the night of their last supper] Jesus said to them, “All of you will run away and leave me, for the scripture says, ‘God will kill the shepherd, and the sheep will all be scattered’” (Mark 14:27).

**PETER:** Peter answered, “I will never leave you, even though all the rest do!” Jesus said to Peter, “I tell you that before the rooster crows two times tonight, you will say three times that you do not know me.” Peter answered even more strongly, “I will never say that, even if I have to die with you!” (Mark 14:29–31).

**THE TWELVE:** And all the other disciples said the same thing (Mark 14:31).

**JOHN:** They came to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He went a little farther on, threw himself on the ground, and prayed that, if possible, he might not have to go through that time of suffering. “Father,” he prayed, “my Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet not what I want, but what you want” (Mark 14:32, 35–36).

**PETER:** Then he returned and found the three disciples asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Weren't you able to stay awake for even one hour?” And he said to them, “Keep watch, and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Mark 14:37–38).

**THE TWELVE:** He went away once more and prayed, saying the same words. Then he came back to the disciples and found them asleep; they could not keep their eyes open. And they did not know what to say to him. When he came back the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come! Look, the Son of Man is now being handed over to the power of sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, here is the man who is betraying me!” (Mark 14:39–42).

**JUDAS:** Jesus was still speaking when Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs and sent by the chief priests, the teachers of the Law, and the elders. The traitor had given the crowd a signal: “The man I kiss is the one you want. Arrest him and take him away under guard.” As soon as Judas arrived, he went up to Jesus and said, “Teacher!” and kissed him (Mark 14:43–45).

**PETER:** Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the High Priest's slave, cutting off his right ear. The name of the slave was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back in its place! Do you think that I will not drink the cup of suffering which my Father has given me?" (John 18:10–11).

**THE TWELVE:** The Roman soldiers with their commanding officer and the Jewish guards arrested Jesus and tied him up. Then all the disciples left him and ran away (John 18:12; Mark 14:50).

**JOHN:** Then Jesus was taken to the High Priest's house, where all the chief priests, the elders, and the teachers of the Law were gathering (Mark 14:53).

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. That other disciple was well known to the High Priest, so he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the High Priest's house, while Peter stayed outside by the gate. Then the other disciple went back out, spoke to the girl at the gate, and brought Peter inside (John 18:15–16).

**PETER:** Peter was still down in the courtyard when one of the High Priest's servant women came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked straight at him and said, "You, too, were with Jesus of Nazareth." But he denied it. "I don't know what you are talking about," he answered, and went out into the passageway. Just then a rooster crowed. The servant woman saw him there and began to repeat to the bystanders, "He is one of them!" But Peter denied it again. A little while later the bystanders accused Peter again, "You can't deny that you are one of them, because you, too, are from Galilee." Then Peter said, "I swear that I am telling the truth! May God punish me if I am not! I do not know the man you are talking about!" Just then a rooster crowed a second time, and Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows two times, you will say three times that you do not know me." And he broke down and cried (Mark 14:66–73).

Pilate went back into the palace and called Jesus. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked him. Jesus said, "My kingdom does not belong to this world; if my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish authorities. No, my kingdom does not belong here!" (John 18:33, 36).

**JUDAS:** When Judas, the traitor, learned that Jesus had been condemned, he repented and took back the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. "I have sinned by betraying an innocent man to death!" he said. "What do we care about that?" they answered. "That is your business!" Judas threw the coins down in the Temple and left; then he went off and hanged himself (Matthew 27:3–5).

**JOHN:** [After Jesus was nailed to the cross] Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, "He is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "She is your mother." From that time the disciple took her to live in his home (John 19:25–27).