

## OVERVIEW SERIES:

Matthew 26:45-46

### Behold The Hour Is At Hand

“Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.”

Jesus has just finished His third prayer to the Father. Then He comes to the disciples that were asleep and said, “Sleep on now, and take your rest.” Jesus knew that His time had come. He knew now that there was no other way. He knew the time had come for Him to bear the sins of the world.

The word “behold” in this text is used to call attention to something. As Jesus walked back to the three disciples, the men coming to arrest Him were already in view. In fact, they arrived while He was still speaking to his disciples (v. 47). As they approached, Jesus could make out the Roman soldiers and the chief priests and elders. It was the religious institute and its leaders that so hated Jesus. And now Jesus could see them clearly. Most of all, He could see Judas, who was leading this group.

With great sadness, Jesus said, “the hour is at hand.” He was not sad because He was unwilling to face the cross but because He was about to become sin. The sin of the entire world was now pressing greatly upon Him. We cannot explain, nor can we fully understand how He must have felt at this moment when all that the Father had foretold was coming to pass. Yet, there is something else that brought Him great sadness as well. His sadness was made more bitter because His beloved disciples would not stand with Him as He gave His all for them.

One writer said, “With a strength made even more magnificent by its contrast with their [disciples] weakness, the Son of Man graciously submitted to being betrayed into the hands of sinners.”

There was nothing more to be done. His time had come. So, Jesus says to his disciple, “Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.” Rather than being weakened by all that has taken place, Jesus became stronger and more resolved; and instead of waiting for His enemies to come to Him, He went out to meet them. It had to be. There was no other way. This was a divine act, enacted by the Sovereign of the universe. This was God’s will for His Son. Jesus had to die in order that you and I could be saved.

Jesus had to go to the cross. And the message of the cross is absolute madness to those who are perishing. The world in its wisdom doesn't understand the Christian message of the cross. It just doesn't fit into thinking that God had to die for their sins – they don't understand the theology of the cross (1 Corinthians 1:18-31). Yet it had to be this way according to God's divine plan.

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