

Sermon Outline
“Decisive Submission”
Matthew 26:47-56

- I.** The structural framework
 - A** Arrival of Judas v. 47a
 - B** Swords and clubs advanced vv. 47b
 - C** Jesus and Judas vv. 48-50
 - C¹** Jesus and Peter vv. 51-54 (*cf.* Jn 18:10)
 - B¹** Swords and clubs dismissed vv. 55-56a
 - A¹** Departure of the Eleven v. 56b

- II.** Contrast between the disciples vv. 47, 51, 56
 - Judas, the betrayer
 - Peter, an appropriate defender
 - The fleeing Eleven (*cf.* v. 31; but notice v. 58)

- III.** Contrast between “temples” vv. 47b, 50, 55
 - A crowd, led by the high priest’s servant v. 51
 - Clubs and swords vv. 47, 55
 - Seizing Jesus v. 50

- IV.** Jesus response to his arrest
 - Conflict of soul vv. 38-44
 - Now over; the die is cast.
 - Not “resignation” but determination (*cf.* v. 54, 56).
 - Words to Judas v. 50
 - Judas’ action
 - “Friend” (*cf.* 20:13; 22:12)
 - “Do what you have to do.”
 - Words to Peter vv. 52-54
 - Peter’s action v. 51
 - “Put up your sword” v. 52 (*cf.* Rom 12:19-21; Mt 5:39)
 - “Don’t you know what can be done?” v. 53
 - Cf.* Ps 91:11-12; Mt 4:6
 - “The Scriptures must be fulfilled” v. 54
 - Cf.* Zech 13:7-9

Like Jesus, we can deliberate, even wrestle, with a conflict.
When the course is clear ahead, we must press forward.