

ANSWER:

Jesus was frequently surrounded by large crowds who admired Him, many recognizing Him as a prophet and teacher. This made it difficult for the religious leaders to arrest Him during the day without causing an uproar. They feared the public reaction, knowing the people believed in Jesus' righteousness and authority.

Matthew 21:45-46

[45] When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking about them.

[46] And although they were seeking to arrest Him, they feared the crowds, because they held Him to be a prophet.

Arresting Jesus at night allowed the religious leaders to avoid confrontation with the crowds. It was a calculated move driven by fear and hypocrisy. They approached Him with swords and clubs—as if He were a dangerous criminal—despite knowing that He was innocent.

This action revealed their guilty conscience. They chose darkness because their deeds were evil, echoing a consistent biblical theme:

those who act unjustly prefer darkness to avoid being exposed by the light.

Mark 14:48-49

[48] And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture Me?

[49] Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize Me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled."

This moment was not accidental—it fulfilled God’s divine plan for salvation. The arrest of Jesus, His suffering, and His crucifixion were foretold in Scripture (see Isaiah 53). Though the religious leaders believed they were silencing Him, they were actually fulfilling God’s redemptive purpose.

This contrast between light and darkness is central to Christian theology. Jesus is described as **the Light of the world**—the One who exposes sin, offers truth, and gives life. His arrest in the darkness highlights the spiritual blindness of those who rejected Him.

John 1:4-5

[4] In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

[5] The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Despite being betrayed and arrested under the cover of night, Jesus' light could not be extinguished. Instead, His death and resurrection became the very means through which humanity would be offered eternal life.

Jesus was arrested at night not because of chance, but because of fear, hypocrisy, and the fulfillment of prophecy. In doing so, the darkness revealed itself—but it also revealed the unstoppable power of God's light and grace.

Believe in Christ. Let His light shine in your heart and overcome every shadow.

Shalom.

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