

## **For Reflection:**

The chief priests, teachers of the law, and elders of the Jewish community were dedicated church folk. They were expecting a Messiah--eager to welcome him. They didn't recognize Jesus, because he was not like them. He was too lowly, too normal, and most of all, Jesus didn't lionize them. They brought weapons, not praise, to kill the god that they didn't create.

Peter was ready to fight, but Jesus wasn't leading a rebellion. Jesus would let the circumstances and Bible prophecy unfold and speak for itself. The disciples had been through threatening situations with Jesus before, but Jesus had always pulled it off. This time was different, and they weren't prepared.

Jesus had made his resolve and faced the problem head on. There were other times that Jesus had walked away from danger (Lk 4:30), so we know Jesus went willingly to the cross. The questions and statements from Jesus were not for his own benefit. He directed the hearers' thoughts inwardly towards themselves.

## **Today's Scripture:**

*The men seized Jesus and arrested him. Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.*

*"Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did*

*not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.” Then everyone deserted him and fled.*

*A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind. (Mark 14:46-52 NIV).*

### **Question to Ponder:**

Who are you in this story? Does pride play any role in your current challenges? What expectations do you have about the way God works in, through and around you? Who would you like to be in this story?

### **Prayer:**

Jesus my Cornerstone, do I recognize all that you do for me or am I too caught up in my own sense of the ways things should be? Help me to find grounding in you. Amen

### **Practice: Fasting**

To let go of an appetite in order to seek God on matters of deep concern for others, myself and the world. A fast is the self-denial of normal necessities in order to intentionally attend to God in prayer. Bringing attachments and cravings to the surface opens a place for prayer. This physical awareness of emptiness is the reminder to turn to Jesus who alone can satisfy.

Today, try abstaining from food, drink, shopping, desserts, chocolate and so on to intentionally be with God. Keep company with Jesus in relinquishment.  
(adapted from *The Spiritual Discipline Handbook*, Adele Ahlberg Calhoun/Fasting)