

Put Away Your Sword

John 18:1-27

by Don Falkos

copyright 2018 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

Jesus and his disciples crossed the Kidron Valley and went into a grove of olive trees. Judas arrived with a detachment of Roman soldiers and some Temple guards provided by the chief priests and the Pharisees. They carried torches and lanterns and were armed, ready for a struggle.

Jesus stepped forward and asked, "Who are you looking for?"

They replied, "Jesus of Nazareth."

He said to them, "**I AM.**" And they immediately stumbled backwards and fell to the ground.

Again he asked, "Who are you looking for?"

"Jesus of Nazareth."

"I told you **I AM.** So if I'm the one you want, let these others go."

Simon Peter drew a sword and struck the servant of the High Priest, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus said, "Put away your sword. My Father has given me a cup to drink, and I'm going to drink it."

Jesus was arrested, tied up, and taken to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the High Priest. Annas questioned him about his teachings.

Jesus said, "Ask the ones who heard me; they know what I said."

One of the guards slapped Jesus, who said, "I have spoken the truth, so why are you hitting me?" Then Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas.

Meanwhile, Simon Peter was in the courtyard of the house. A servant woman asked him, "Aren't you one of that man's disciples?"

He said, "No, I'm not."

Later, he was asked again, "Aren't you one of his disciples?"

He said, "No, I'm not."

Then a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Didn't I see you with him out there in the olive grove?"

Again Peter denied it, and immediately a rooster crowed.