



MORE THAN 12 LEGIONS OF ANGELS

By Bill Pugh

Gethsemane – an eastern garden. Normally a place for rest, quiet, meditation for Jesus and his friends. Now in the last hours before the cross, a garden of conflict, violence, betrayal and arrest of an innocent man. Jesus knew his hour had come, stopping here to pray for strength to go on, to do the Father's will. He asked his friends to support and pray with him, but they fell asleep, and could not watch for even one brief hour.

Into the garden came a noisy rabble, aroused by the religious authorities,

baying for blood. Judas with them, who identifies Jesus for the mob, by kissing him. The kiss of betrayal. Incensed, a bystander cuts off the ear of one of the priest's slaves. Luke, a doctor, alone of the gospel writers, reports Jesus immediately healed him. "Those who live by the sword will die by the sword", says Jesus. "If I needed such help, my father would have sent me more than 12 legions of angels". And they seized Jesus, roughly dragging him off to the high priest's house.

Reflection:

Some are tempted to press a button and rain down destruction on our enemies. What unimaginable horror and destruction would follow. The murder of innocents, solving nothing. More than ever we need to pray and work for peaceful solutions to the world's problems.

Jesus taught: BLESSED ARE THE PEACE MAKERS, FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD. A good focus for next Sunday's intercessions.