

The Arrest of Jesus

John 18:1-12

August 20, 2023

1. Betrayal in the Garden (1-3)

- a. The Significance of the Garden (1)
 - i. Gardens are significant in the Gospel of John.
 - ii. Jesus was arrested in a garden (1).
 - iii. Jesus was crucified in a garden (19:41).
 - iv. Jesus was resurrected in a garden (20:15).
 - v. The first garden in Scripture was the place where death was born out of life.
 - vi. The second garden was the place where life was born out of death.
- b. The Betrayer of Jesus (2)
 - i. Judas is known in the Gospel of John as the one who betrayed Jesus (cf. 6:71; 12:4).
 - ii. Judas knew the place because Jesus frequently gathered there with His disciples.
 - iii. Like Adam, Judas represents the world in its betrayal of Jesus (cf. 1:11).
 - iv. Jesus entered into this garden to be betrayed so He could die to redeem His betrayers!
- c. The Betrayer's Accomplices (3)
 - i. Judas was accompanied by about a large cohort of Romans soldiers ranging between 200 to 600 men.
 - ii. Judas was also accompanied by servants of the high priests and Pharisees.
 - iii. Ultimately, Jesus was betrayed by both Jew and Gentile, who represent the betrayal of the world.

2. The Authority of Jesus (4-9)

- a. Jesus questions the mob (4)
 - i. Jesus knew all that was coming upon Him, the sins of the world (cf. 1:29) and the wrath of God.
 - ii. Jesus directly confronts the mob directly with a question, just as God questioned Adam in the garden.
 - iii. By questioning the mob, Jesus demonstrates His authority and control over the situation.
- b. Jesus displays His authority (5-6)
 - i. Jesus announces Himself as the One that they seek.
 - ii. At the sound of His voice, none of His opponents could keep from falling prostrate at His feet (cf. Phil. 2:10).
- c. Jesus again questions the mob (7)
 - i. By repeating the question, Jesus gives the mob permission to get to their feet and continue their errand.
 - ii. This is His hour, and He is in complete control.
- d. Jesus protects His disciples (8-9)
 - i. Jesus sovereignty protects His disciples from the hateful mob (9).
 - ii. Jesus fulfilled the word that He spoke in His prior prayer that He had lost none of those given to Him by His Father (cf. 17:12).
 - iii. Even in this dark hour, Jesus was protecting and caring for His disciples (cf. 1 Peter 5:7).

3. The Cup from the Father (10-12)

- a. Peter's act of defiance (10)
 - i. Peter drew his sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest.
 - ii. Killing or mutilating the servant of the high priest would have been equivalent to tar and feathering in the early days of this country; it was an act of defiance at the highest level.
 - iii. Unknowingly, Peter was resisting the sacrificial death of Jesus.
- b. Jesus' rebuke of Peter (11)
 - i. Jesus rebukes Peter with a question.
 - ii. The "cup" metaphor in the Old Testament serves as a symbol of the judgment of God.
 - iii. The cup that Jesus must drink has been given Him by the Father, the very wrath of God (cf. 3:36).
 - iv. In opposing Jesus' betrayal and arrest, Peter was unknowingly withstanding the will of God.
- c. Jesus arrested and Bound (12)
 - i. Before Jesus is bound, He lets His disciples know that His Father is the One Who is in control.
 - ii. Only then is the Roman commander able to arrest and bind Him.
 - iii. Jesus allowed Himself to be bound like a sacrifice was bound before being slaughtered.

Conclusion:

1. Have you submitted to the authority of Jesus Christ?
2. Are you resting in Jesus' protection?
3. Are you resting in God's sovereign control?