

The Gospel of John

Chapter 18, part 1

- I. Introduction
 - a. In our previous lesson, Jesus prayed to the Father
 - i. The main subject matter was the fact that He was about to leave this world for Heaven
 - 1. Knowing this, He prayed for His own
 - b. Today's lesson contain the events following His prayer
- II. Commentary
 - a. **Verses 1-6**
 - i. After Jesus prayed, He and the disciples went to a garden over the Brook Kidron
 - 1. Matthew and Mark tell us that this is the Garden of Gethsemane
 - a. Though John doesn't record it, both Matthew and Mark tell us that He prayed with great heaviness of heart at this time
 - ii. Judas knew the place because this was a place that Jesus visited with His disciples regularly
 - 1. Judas, having betrayed the Lord, brought a detachment of troops with him to the garden to arrest Jesus
 - a. According to historians, this could be between 200 and 1000 troops
 - b. They had weapons to arrest Jesus
 - i. Perhaps Judas had told them of the miracles that Jesus had worked??
 - c. Jesus asked them who they were seeking
 - i. Of course, He knew full well who they were there to arrest
 - ii. *They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth"*
 - 1. He responded, "*I am He*"
 - a. At this point, they fell backward to the ground
 - i. If you'll notice, this is always the response of unbelievers to the power of God in the Bible
 - ii. How does this compare to the so-called "slayings" in modern day televangelism?
 - b. **Verses 7-9**
 - i. Apparently, they didn't arrest Him after being knocked backwards
 - 1. So, He asks them again who they were there for
 - a. Again, they respond by saying they were there for Jesus
 - i. He says that He had already told them He was Jesus
 - ii. He asks them to let the disciples go
 - 1. This would be a fulfillment of His promise to protect them

c. **Verses 10-11**

- i. Peter took his sword and cut off the ear of Malchus, the high priest's servant
 - 1. Most likely, Peter was aiming for Malchus' head
 - a. He was ready, at this time, to fight for the Lord
 - 2. Jesus tells Peter to put his sword up because this was the Father's purpose
 - 3. **Luke 22:51** tells us that Jesus restored Malchus' ear and made it whole
 - a. Though we cannot be sure, how do you think this affected Malchus?
 - i. Surely, understanding depravity, there's nothing here that would require that his life was changed
 - ii. However, knowing the human mind, we must conclude that he must have at least wondered how this happened

d. **Verses 12-14**

- i. The detachment of troops arrested Jesus and bound Him
 - 1. Surely, Jesus could have stopped this at any moment if He had willed to
 - a. However, it was the Father's will that He be arrested and led to Calvary
 - i. So, He willingly allowed this
 - 2. They took Him to Annas who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest
 - a. Caiaphas had told the Jews it was expedient that one man should die for the people
 - i. Obviously, he was speaking about something physical
 - ii. He didn't realize the spiritual implications of what he was saying

e. **Verses 15-17**

- i. Peter followed Jesus along with "another" disciple
 - 1. Tradition has identified this person as John, the beloved disciple, who wrote this book and never mentioned himself by name
 - 2. That disciple went with Jesus into the courtyard
 - a. He seems to have been more brave than any of the other disciples
 - i. If this surely was John, he was the only disciple present at the Crucifixion
 - b. He went to get Peter
 - i. The girl that kept the door asked Peter if he was also a disciple
 - 1. Peter answered that he was not
 - a. This was the first of his 3 denials