

“Gospel of John – Betrayal and Protection”

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Scripture

John 18:1-11

“When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples. Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. Judas then, having received the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, **came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.**”

“So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am [He].”

“And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. So when He said to them, "I am [He]," they drew back and fell to the ground.”

“Therefore, He again asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am [He]; so if you seek Me, let these go their way," to fulfill the word which He spoke, "Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one.”

“Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?”

After a couple of weeks for Easter focus

Back to John's Gospel

The high priestly prayer is completed

The march to the cross has begun -> also in **Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22**

The Betrayal Scene

John 18:1-3

“When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples. Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. Judas then, having received the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, **came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.**”

Kidron valley, East of Jerusalem

Mount of Olives on the other side, many olive groves there

A walled garden on the mountain named Gethsemane -> meaning “Oil Press”

Judas knew the place where Jesus would take the disciples -> been there many times before – **Matthew 26**

Judas has a Roman cohort with him (**only John**) -> maximum of 1,000 soldiers, often as much as 600 soldiers
Officers from the chief priests -> these would be the arresting officers since Jesus would be taken to Annas
They came with lanterns, torches, and weapons -> expecting a serious battle

Judas knows what Jesus is capable of, but He hasn't shown any battle gear prior to this

Why so many soldiers? -> Jesus asks this in the other Gospels -> "like a robber?"

Large Roman forces during the Passover event -> staying in the Antonia Fortress near the Temple ground
Rome wanted to assure there would be no disturbance during Passover

Jesus is waiting for them

The "I AM" Is Waiting

John 18:4-5

"So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, "**Whom do you seek?**" They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "**I am [He].**"

"knowing all the things that were coming upon Him" -> Jesus is omniscient -> He knew Judas was coming

He told Judas, "What you do, do quickly" -> **John 13:27**

In that passage in **John 13**, Jesus predicted Judas's betrayal

John 13:21

"He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me."

He dipped a morsel of bread and gave it to Judas -> who soon departed

"Whom do you seek?" -> Jesus took control of the situation

He didn't wait for Judas or the Roman commander to lead the conversation

Jesus has one thing on His mind here -> He wants to protect His flock

He wanted to ensure that the Cohort was not going to take Peter and the rest of the disciples into custody

Why would He do this?

The disciples are still young in faith -> **asked them to pray to not enter temptation in the other Gospels**

The disciples do not yet have the Holy Spirit

They respond they are looking for "Jesus the Nazarene" -> **it's night and they have torches** -> **betray with a kiss**

He knows that this charge is from the Jews -> only the Jews would reference His hometown

"I am [He]." -> Jesus responds with the name of God -> the "I AM"

He has called Himself this before

John 8:28 -> "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I AM He"

John 8:58 -> "Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM"

When He said this, the Jews picked up stones to throw at Him -> they wouldn't have done that if He just said "Hey, it's Me"

What happens next is indicative of Whom Jesus is:

Every Knee Bows

John 18:6

"And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. So, **when He said to them, "I am [He]," they drew back and fell to the ground.**"

What happened when Jesus called Himself the Name of God?

Everyone, all of the Roman soldiers -> face planted

All the Temple officers -> face planted

Judas bowed down! -> Satan had inhabited Judas back in John 13 -> Satan bowed down!

They bowed down to the man they were going to arrest

This was a foreshadowing of what Paul wrote about to the Philippian church:

Philippians 2:9-11

"God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the Name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Paul quotes from **Isaiah 45:23** -> "I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance."

This event had to daze the entire group of soldiers

So much so that Jesus needed to ask them again:

The Protection of the Flock

John 18:7-9

"Therefore, He again asked them, "**Whom do you seek?**" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am [He]; so if you seek Me, let these go their way," to fulfill the word which He spoke, "Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one."

Have you ever wondered why Jesus had to ask, "Whom do you seek?" twice?

Here we see Jesus protecting His young flock

I told you that I am [He]; so if you seek Me -> just in case they forgot, Jesus reminds them He said He was I AM

"**let these go their way**" -> there's a forcefulness behind Jesus's statement

This is not a simple request

Jesus demands that they let His disciples go

What Jesus demands, Jesus gets

“to fulfill the word which He spoke, "Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one”

Jesus’s promises to keep His own safe are sure

John 6:39 (This is God’s Will)

“This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing but raise it up on the last day.”

John 10:27-28 (He is the Good Shepherd)

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and **no one will snatch them out of My hand.**”

John 17:12 (the high priestly prayer)

“While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and **I guarded them and not one of them perished** but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”

Only Judas was lost and would perish so that **Psalm 41:9** would be fulfilled

Jesus used the Greek word *phulassó* which was a watching over like a military guard

Jesus guarded them just like the Roman cohort would have guarded the Emperor

Do we need to be reminded of Paul’s words to the Roman church?

Romans 8:31-35

“**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? **Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;** who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. **Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”**

The only way you will lose your life on earth is if the Lord allows it to happen

If that is the case, and if you’re a believer, your next stop is Glory

There is no doubt about what Jesus promised His chosen

Peter has other ideas, however:

The Father’s Plan

John 18:10-11

“Simon Peter then, **having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave**, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; **the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?**”

Not wanting to leave the Lord's fate into the soldiers' hands, Peter draws a sword

He's not aiming for his ear, but his head -> it's a providential swing and a miss

Luke 22:51 records that Jesus "touched his ear and healed him"

"Put the sword into the sheath; **the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?**"

He tells Peter to house his sword

The sword referenced is a little dagger, a small knife -> the disciples were not dressed for battle

They were no threat to the Romans or Temple police

Yet Peter acts on instinct

Jesus has another opportunity to teach Peter

Jesus obeys the Father's plan to the letter

The "cup" is referenced many times in Scripture

In the Old Testament, it was a reference for suffering -> **Psalms 75:8** and **Jeremiah 25:5**, for example

When James and John wanted to sit on the left and right of the Lord in glory, Jesus asked:

Mark 10:38

"Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. **Are you able to drink the cup that I drink**, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"

In that garden, the Lord asked the Father, "if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me" -> **Matthew 26:39**

Then what did Jesus say, "yet not as I will, but as You will"

Which leads us to the table we have before us

Jesus did drink the cup of the Father's wrath, on our behalf

Luke 22:19-20

"When He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**" And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."

We thank Him for His sacrifice for us

We thank Him for His protection of us

We thank Him for His forgiveness of us

Communion Prayer

Benediction