

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bibles with me to the Gospel of John 18

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through the Gospel of John

One of the things that is unique about the Gospel of John is how the Holy Spirit inspired John to devote about half of his gospel to deal with the last week of Jesus' life before the crucifixion and half of that focuses on the last hours of His life – before the cross.

We began the Upper Room discourse back in June – we have spent the last six months going over the private teachings that Jesus gave His disciples.

We have studied in the depth – the “real Lord’s Prayer” and have received insight of what was on Jesus’ heart that evening – knowing what awaited Him in a few hours.

It won't be long now before Jesus would be hanging on a Roman cross – crucified for your sins and mine.

And for all the physical suffering He is about to endure at the hands of the Roman soldiers and upon the cross – the true suffering, the place of crushing, the place of submission

**Let's pray...**

**[Jhn 18:1-11 NKJV] 1 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered.**

So John tells us that after Jesus' prayer – they go down the Kidron Valley – pass the Brook Kidron and make their way up to the Mt of Olives

This is where this garden is located.

By the way, there is a shadow or a picture of this in the Old Testament -

David – during Absalom's rebellion (2 Sam 15) – as he was rejected by his people as their king, David takes this same route up to the Mt of Olives

And just like Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the garden

David is betrayed by Ahithophel – someone who had walked alongside him – someone who David describes as someone who you he used to take sweet council together – a very trusted friend

And so therefore we see Jesus, the Son of David – rejected by His people following the same path here.

Now, during the time of Jesus – the walls of Jerusalem had been standing for some time.

So that means that as the city grew (as more and more people moved into the city of Jerusalem) the empty space within the walls became less and less.

That means that there were no gardens within the walls –

Why? Because land was at a premium.

So the wealthy people had little plots of land on the hillsides surrounding the city where they would plant shade trees and have a place to retreat and cool down during the hot time of the year –

It was their own private garden

Not only did they provide shade, they also provided extra income.

This garden has a name – “Gethsemane”

Gethsemane was an olive orchard

And back then – the people didn’t harvest the olives and ship them somewhere to get processed – they did it right there in the garden.

They didn’t harvest the olives so they could put them in their salads or pizzas or tamales.

The harvested olives to get the oil.

The name Gethsemane means “oil press” —because it was the place where olives were crushed and pressed to release their oil.

Church -

This time in the garden was a time of crushing

And for Jesus – we find that this is the place where He is going to be squeezed and crushed in order to produce the oil of salvation for your life and mine.

It would be in this very garden where Jesus is going to be crushed as He submits to the will of the Father.

And His time in the garden was so difficult and so hard that Dr Luke, gives us a little more insight of what was going on and tells us in his gospel

**[Luk 22:44 NKJV] 44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.**

The other gospels also tell us that Jesus took His disciples into garden and gave them the command - **Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.**

This admonition by the Lord Jesus is no less relevant and vital today as it was when He first gave it to His disciples in that garden two-thousand years ago!

It's interesting, the first two people that gave in to temptation (Adam and Eve) also

found themselves in a garden (Garden of Eden)—but they didn't watch and pray and so the devil was able to tempt them and they fell.

There is a lot of similarities and contrast between the Garden of Gethsemane and the Garden of Eden.

Consider this church –

In the Garden of Eden – man first lost his relationship to the Father through sin

In Gethsemane – that relationship was restored through submission and sacrifice

In the Garden of Eden – the first Adam tried to hide from God

In Gethsemane – the last Adam, Jesus Christ, bared His soul to the Father

In the Garden of Eden – man was driven out because of His sin

In Gethsemane – Jesus prepares to die for sin

In the Garden of Eden – a sword was taken out – a cherubim with the flaming sword to protect the tree of life – and the sword was put there to never enter again

In Gethsemane – as we will see, that sword was put away and a man was healed

And therefore all that was lost in the Garden of Eden will be reclaimed in another garden – the garden of paradise (heaven)— all made possible because of Jesus submitting in the Garden of Gethsemane – the garden of the olive press.

The most important thing that is happening in the garden of gethsemane – is the submission of the Son to the will of the Father

**[Mat 26:39 NKJV] 39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You [will].”**

Jesus is praying -

Is there any other way You can accomplish Your will Father

Is there any other way You can save humanity

Is there any other way but the agonizing path of the cross

And there isn't –

That is why Jesus concludes -

**nevertheless, not as I will, but as You [will].”**

It is a prayer of submission church

Submission is a very important thing to grasp in our Christian walk

Jesus shows us here in the garden how precious it can be

A lack of submission brings about rebellion and anarchy

Submission is something that God has ordained for you and me in His Word

- Children are supposed to be submissive to their parents (Amen!)
- Believers are told to be submissive to church leadership (Heb 13:17)
- Servants or modern-day employees are to be submissive toward their employers
- Younger believers submit to your elders (1 Peter 5:5)
- Believers are to submit to one another (Eph 5:21)
- Believers are to submit to God (James 4:7)

Submission is hard right???

Submission isn't necessary when we agree with someone – we just say, let's go, let's do it

Submission is required when we don't agree – that is where God really brings out in us a faith and a trust that God has put that person in our lives.

Where there is godly leadership – that is to be matched with our godly submission.

That is God's heart and will for us within the body

The only way we will be able to enjoy the fruit of God's presence among us and enjoy the family of God is through submission to one another.

We live in a day in age where submission is not valued – it is dismissed

We live in a time where submission is all about submitting to our own ideas and doing whatever we want no matter what other people say or think about it.

That is not what submission is about.

We need to be submitted to the Lord and mutually submitted to one another.

**2 And Judas (boooooo), who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. 3 Then Judas, having received a detachment [of troops], and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.**

Judas knew the place of submission – he was well aware of it

His problem was that he wanted no part in it

He wasn't willing to submit –

he wanted no part in the crushing.

He was after self

He wanted money

He didn't want to serve – he wanted to be served.

Now, I know we booed Judas

But we have to remind ourselves that there is a little bit of Judas in each one of us

There is a little bit of self-centeredness – where we are looking out for ourselves

So when we boo Judas – we need to make sure that we examine ourselves.

Because none of us want to be known as a Judas – none of us want to betray Jesus

We want to be loyal to Him, we want to be faithful to the very end.

Think about how many times in the three years - Judas was there in the garden watching and listening to Jesus pray.

And here he is betraying Him – because he wanted his will to be done.

Notice that Judas doesn't come alone – he brings with him a detachment of troops.

Judas came with 600 fully armed guard soldiers to take Jesus

This is not including the religious rulers and the temple guards that accompanied them.

What did Judas tell them about Jesus that they came with over 600 guys to arrest Him?

They showed up with lanterns and torches –

It is Passover – that means that there was a full moon out.

Jesus and the disciples were not going to ambush Judas and the religious rulers

They were not planning on putting up a fight

They apparently thought they were going to have to 'beat the bushes' to find Jesus who would be hiding from them like a common criminal—hence the need also for 'weapons'.

When Judas was given this group of soldiers and Temple police to go and arrest Jesus—he no doubt went back to the upper room believing that Jesus and His disciples were still there. When he saw that they were gone, he figured that the next likely place he would find them would be the Garden of Gethsemane.

**4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?"**

As we read this account, the one thing I want us to understand is that—Jesus was in full control!

He was not taken by surprise, and He was definitely not a victim of circumstances—He knew exactly what was going to happen.

That is why I had you make a note of “knowing all things”

Earlier in the evening – Jesus had told the disciples that Judas was going to be tray Him

He had quoted David -

**Psalm 41:9 (NKJV)**

**9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.**

Matthew tells us that Judas had already arranged to identify Jesus by kissing Him.

But Jesus shocked both Judas and the arresting officers by boldly presenting Himself to them—

He had nothing to fear and nothing to hide—He would willingly lay down His life for His sheep.

**5 They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am [He]." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. 6 Now when He said to them, "I am [He]," they drew back and fell to the ground.**

Notice that the word "He" is in italics.

That means it's not in the original Greek text; it's added by the English translators to aid in interpretation

However, in this case – it obscures instead of clarifies.

Because Jesus answered to them, "I AM"

By saying "I am" Jesus was not only answering their question that He was 'Jesus of Nazareth'—but He was declaring His divinity as well—that He was (and is!) Yahweh the Almighty God of the universe—the Creator of all things!

The fact that these 600 men fell when Jesus said these words –

Not only is it an awesome display of power

It is an amazing display of mercy

In Matthew's gospel – Jesus tells us that He had twelve legions of angels at His disposal

**In Isaiah 11 - He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.**

These guys had no clue who they were dealing with

It shows that Jesus is allowing this all to happen, willingly.

That He has surrendered to the Father's will

Think about it – with everyone on the ground – Jesus could have made a run for it.

But He didn't

**7 Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." 8 Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am [He]. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way," 9 that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."**

Jesus is making sure that the disciples aren't going to be in any immediate danger.

Jesus is demonstrating His care over His disciples.

**[Jhn 10:11-14 NKJV] 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 "But a hireling, [he who is] not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the**

wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 "The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. 14 "I am the good shepherd; and I know My [sheep], and am known by My own.

That is what Jesus is doing here

That is why twice He says – who are you looking for?

He wants to narrow their intent to just Him

He used the absence of their mention of the disciples as the way to make sure they were NOT also apprehended.

This was the same sacrificial love that would find its ultimate peak at the cross.

It also shows why Jesus knocked the soldiers to the ground; the show of power was to protect the disciples, not Himself.

The disciples should have seen this announcement as their cue -

But Peter....

God bless him,

He sees this as the perfect opportunity to follow through on his earlier promise to stick with Jesus no matter what.

**10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.**

Peter was a passionate guy

It was just a few hours earlier that Jesus looked Peter in the eye and told him -

**[Jhn 13:38 NKJV] 38 Jesus answered him, "Will you lay down your life for My sake? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.**

The other 10 disciples heard what Jesus told Peter – and I believe that this pricked his emotion

I believe what we see here in verse 10 – is an act of emotion

“I will prove that I am not going to betray you”

So he takes out his sword and starts swinging

Peter was a fisherman – not a soldier

He didn't know what he was doing

He goes after the head instead of going for the body

And he missed badly – he cut the servant's ear off

He might have been a great fisherman, but he was a horrible swordsman

And Jesus is so gracious, that the other gospels tell us that He reattached the ear and healed Malchus.

Peter could have been in big trouble for cutting the ear off the servant

He could have hung on a cross for what he did.

Jesus got rid of the evidence

Note this verse down –

**[Rom 10:2 NKJV] 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.**

Zeal without knowledge

Passion not rooted in the truth

Peter is passionate about helping here but lacks the foundation of wisdom

Jesus did not ask for Peter's help or want Peter's help or need Peter's help – but his emotions got the best of him.

And there are many believers today who have a passion and are zealous for God but lack the foundation of His word.

And they run around trying to do things for the Lord when in reality they are not rooted in God's will.

Zeal always has to be channeled with the truth so it doesn't hurt others.

Always

What was Peter thinking –

That after the servant he was going to go after the 600 soldiers?

The truth is that Peter wasn't thinking – he was being led by his emotions

There was a spiritual battle that was going on

“Why does Jesus have to go?”

“Why is Jesus saying that I am going to betray Him – I will show Him”

And the danger comes in the life of the believer – when we are not abiding in Him – one of the things that we tend to do is make up for it with zeal.

I know what I'll do

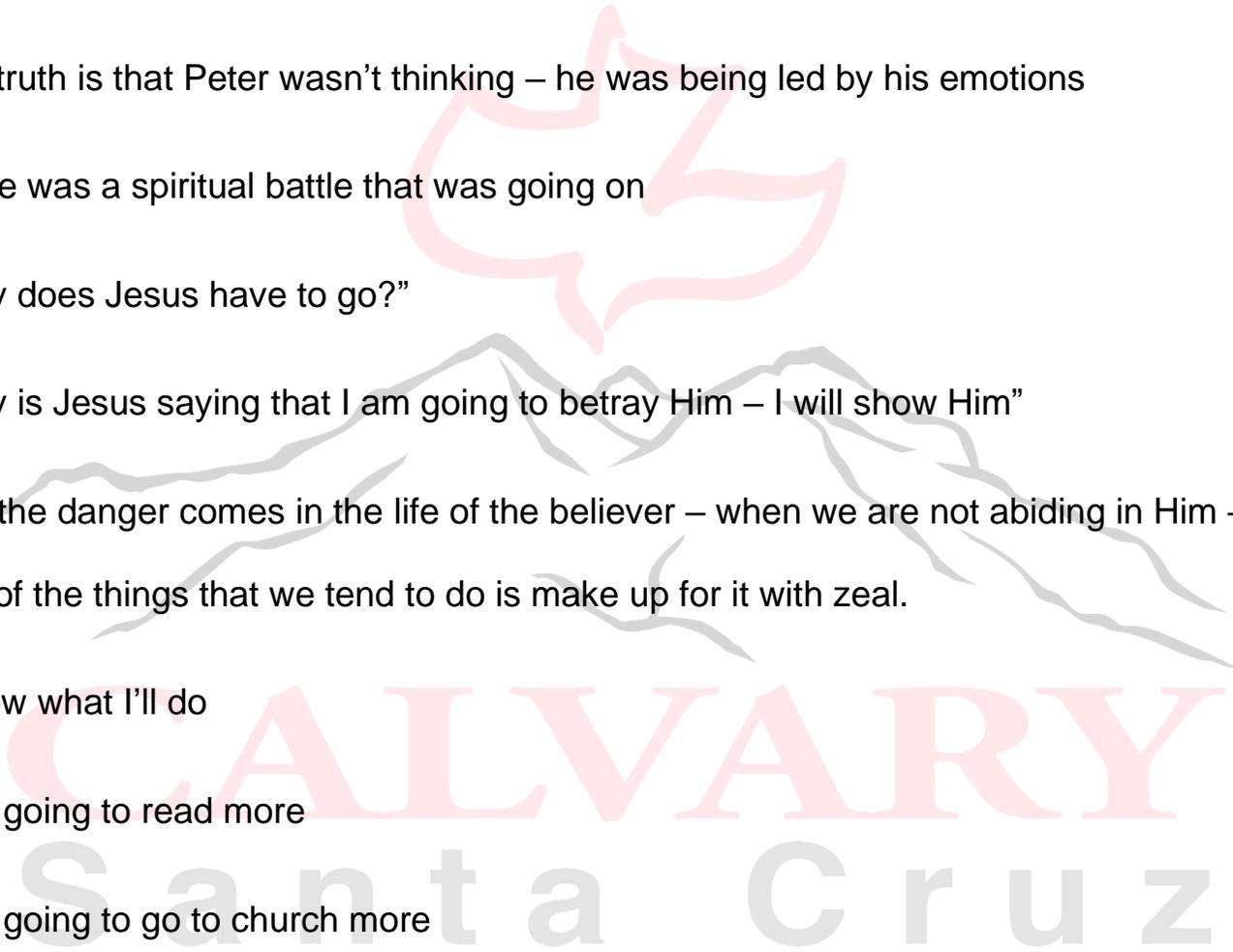
I am going to read more

I am going to go to church more

I am going to pray more

I am going to give more

And the problem is that none of it is being led by Him – it is all emotionally driven



We want to have that steady relationship with Him as we abide in Him and are led by the Spirit

**[Rom 8:14 NKJV] 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**

**11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"**

This cup – is the same cup that moments earlier Jesus was praying that if there was another way – that the cup may pass from Him

This is the cup of suffering and death

This is the cup of God's righteous judgment

This was God's wrath which was poured out full strength on Jesus when He hung on the cross and paid for our sins, dying in our place.

This is all made possible by what happened in Gethsemane.

I want to end with this – this healing of Malchus –

This is the last physical healing that Jesus performs – and it was to help clean up a disciple's mess.

And so the thing I want us to think about is – how many messes in our lives – has God been so faithful to come along side us and clean up our mess and restore us and rescue us – even from ourselves.

Oh how we need to learn to submit to His will – we need to learn to come to our Gethsemane.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I

accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

One of the sad things that we saw in our text this morning – is that this is the last mention of Judas in John's gospel.

And where do we find him standing with the world – opposite Jesus

The eleven disciples were at risk of being arrested because they stood with Jesus –

But Judas was the one who was at the greatest risk – because to stand with the world against the Lord Jesus is to put your soul at risk.

To stand with Jesus against the world is the place of eternal safety

**[Luk 12:4-5 NKJV] 4 “And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 “But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!**

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

