

John 18:1-27

Scripture verse: **“Jesus commanded Peter, ‘Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given Me?’ John 18:11**

Main Truth: Jesus is always in control.

The moon was shining brightly as Jesus led His disciples over the creek through the valley and into the beautiful garden. This garden was full of olive trees. The disciples could smell the green leaves and the dirt. The disciples and Jesus had visited this garden many times. But tonight was different. Jesus looked different tonight.

Because Jesus and His disciples came to this garden many, many times, Judas, who was now Jesus' enemy, knew where the garden was and Judas knew Jesus would be there. Judas had told the enemies of Jesus that he would lead them right to Jesus so they could arrest Jesus. Jesus knew Judas was doing this. Jesus was not afraid. Jesus knew that all that was going to happen was His and His Father's plan. Jesus was in control. The men who wanted Jesus to die thought they were in control, but they were not. God had written all of these things in His Word many, many years ago. Now they were all coming true. Jesus had come to the garden so He could be found and arrested just like He and the Father had planned.

Jesus heard the soldiers coming. Jesus went out to meet Judas and the soldiers. Jesus was determined. Jesus was ready. Jesus is God and Jesus looked glorious, because Jesus was perfectly in God, His Father's plan.

Jesus stood tall. Jesus took command of all that was happening. He looked out; hundreds of soldiers were surrounding Jesus and His friends. The Roman soldiers had weapons, the leaders of the Jewish people were there too. They were all lead by Judas.

Jesus stood tall, faced the whole army of men and with the power that is His as God said, “Who do you want?”

“Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

“I AM” Jesus said (remember I AM is the name of God that He told His people to call Him in the Old Testament).

When Jesus said “I AM” all of the soldiers, all of the important men of Israel, and Judas, they all fell down to the ground!

Jesus is God! In that moment before His arrest the glory of God's power was displayed through the Lord Jesus and when He said, “I Am” no one could stay standing! But, Jesus did not hurt the soldiers. Jesus did not leave. Jesus allowed the soldiers and the men who thought they were so important to get back up, dust themselves off and try to act like they were not very afraid.

Jesus asked them again, "Who do you want?"

The soldiers were supposed to be in control. They had weapons, but they were not in control. The very important men of Israel thought they were in control by coming with Judas to arrest Jesus; but they were not the boss either. Jesus was the one who was in control of all things, even His arrest.

Jesus said to them, "I am He. Now let these friends of mine go." Jesus protected His disciple friends. No one could hurt them because Jesus was in control.

When Peter tried to start a fight, Jesus said, "No, Peter. Put your sword away." Jesus knew what God His Father and He had planned. Jesus always obeys His Father. ***John 18:11 says, "Jesus commanded Peter, 'Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given Me?'"***

Jesus let the soldiers tie His hands together. The soldiers surrounded Him. Jesus was not embarrassed. Jesus was not worried. Jesus is always in control. Jesus allowed the soldiers to take Him so He could do what He and God the Father had planned. Jesus wanted people to be free from sin. Jesus wants people to have eternal life with Him. Sin had to be judged and paid for. Jesus was the only One who could take the judgment for the sin of the whole world.

The soldiers took Jesus to a man named Annas. Annas was an important man in Israel. Annas had decided to be an enemy to Jesus. Annas asked Jesus questions. He wanted to find a reason to put Jesus to death. Jesus was not afraid. Jesus was not angry or rude. Annas could not find anything wrong with what Jesus had done. Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas the high priest.

While Annas was questioning Jesus, Peter was outside. Peter had felt sure he would be brave no matter what. Jesus had warned Peter that he would say he did not know Jesus. But Peter thought he was too strong to ever say that he did not know Jesus! But then, the soldiers came and the disciples all ran away from Jesus. Peter ran too. But then Peter came back, but he was scared. While Jesus was not afraid at all, Peter was very, very afraid! A little servant girl saw Peter. She asked, "Aren't you one of Jesus' disciple friends?"

"No, I'm not" Peter lied.

Peter was cold and some of the men were standing by a fire. Peter tried to sneak into the group and warm himself by the fire. The men said to Peter, "You are one of His disciples, aren't you?"

"NO, I am not!" Peter denied Jesus again.

Then one of the guys who had been in the garden said, "I saw you in the garden with Jesus." NO, I DON'T KNOW HIM!" Peter denied Jesus the third time. Then Peter heard a crowing and remembered Jesus had warned him that he would deny Jesus three times that night.

Peter was so sad. Peter ran out into the dark night and cried and cried. Peter loved Jesus, Peter felt so weak. Peter was weak. Peter needed to know that he couldn't do anything apart from Jesus. Peter knew He needed Jesus. Peter was sad he had lost control. Peter let fear control him and Peter lied.

Meanwhile, Jesus was not afraid. Jesus was strong. Even when He was going to suffer for all of the sin of the whole world and men would lie about Him, Jesus was still God. Jesus was glorious even in the worse time ever.

Next week, we will hear more of what happened to Jesus. Jesus was never afraid. Jesus knew this would all happen. It was the plan. Jesus made sure all that He and God the Father planned happened. **Jesus is always in control.**

Q & A

Who planned for Jesus to be arrested and die for the sins of the whole world?

Where did Jesus lead His disciples that night?

Who else knew where Jesus would be?

Who came to arrest Jesus?

Were there just a couple of soldiers or hundreds?

Who was in control of the whole situation?

What happened to all of the soldiers and men when Jesus said, "I am"?

Whose name is "I Am"?

Were Jesus' disciples in danger?

Which disciple wanted to fight?

What did Jesus tell Peter to do with the sword?

Was Jesus afraid or was this His plan?

Why did Jesus have to suffer a trial and die?

What did Peter do while Jesus was on trial?

How many times did Peter deny Jesus?

Was Jesus surprised Peter denied Him?

How did Peter feel?

Was Peter strong or weak?

Who is strong and in control?

Hymn time:

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

We Thank You, Loving Father

Allele, Allele, Alleluia, Praise to the Lord