

Episode # 2-18 – John 18 Part 1 - The Arrest in the Garden

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We just considered the “real Lord’s prayer” as He conversed with His Father regarding His work about to be accomplished, and about His disciples. Now, we start to consider the momentous events of His arrest, trial, and execution.

III. John 18:1-9. The arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

A. V.1. The long teaching section is now ended. They cross the brook Kidron (meaning “Torrent”, which it was in the winter) and enter a garden. From Matthew 26:36 and Mark 14:32 we know this garden was called “Gethsemane.”

B. V.2. This garden was a common meeting place for them. In nearly a week in the Jerusalem area for the feast, they had established a routine. They apparently would stop here every night before heading for their lodgings in Bethany.

C. V.3. Troops here = a cohort, which is 1/10 of a legion (6,000), so this was 600 men! The officers are from the chief priests (Sadducees) and Pharisees, which means they were part of the temple guard. Were Romans there at all? Perhaps not. This is a huge crowd to arrest one Man! The religious leaders feared the Lord because the people loved Him. Luke 22:2. This also gave the impression that the Lord was dangerous.

D. V.4. The Lord does not flee. Instead, He takes charge of His Own arrest!

E. V.5. They must answer God’s question! Nazareth had a bad reputation, so this is a kind of epithet against Him. There is no “He” in Greek, so the Lord refers to Himself as “I Am.” Picture this: the Lord and disciples versus this great crowd of soldiers, with Judas too among their number.

F. V.6. Could this have been a reaction of horror at perceived blasphemy? No! Soldiers would not make themselves vulnerable like this, nor would Judas the traitor. This was the power of the Lord’s words. He was truly in charge of those who arrested Him!

G. V.7. His words were like a blow, and they try to recover. The Greek word “ask” here is more urgent. He is pushing them to answer now.

H. V.8. “Go their way” = to go about their business. The soldiers obeyed His command, and none of His disciples were detained. Again He was in charge of His Own arrest!

I. V.9. This fulfills John 17:12. His every word was like Scripture!

IV. Conclusion: The Lord was in charge of His Own arrest, showing this was all in God’s plan. Only the Lord Himself could order those arresting Him around this way. This all shows that His death was not ultimately because of those who plotted against Him, but rather because God wanted it that way, so He could die for our sins. Praise God for such an incomparable gift!