

TITLE: Peter's Presumption

TEXT: John 18:1-11

Would you take your Bibles, please, and open them to the 18th chapter of John's Gospel. John chapter 18, beginning with Vs 1.

Today, we come to the third division in our study of the Gospel of John. Chapters 18 through 21 deals with the (3A) THE PASSION MINISTRY OF JESUS. We are going to be looking at all those events leading up to and including the resurrection of Jesus Christ. These are tremendous chapters. We are going to study what happened to Jesus in His betrayal, the denial of Peter, the place of his crucifixion. ^{The Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem} And then on Easter Sunday morning we are going to come to the glorious resurrection. I pray that you will be with me through each one of these messages. And I know that God will prepare your heart in every way possible to honor and glorify Jesus Christ.

(Read John 18:1-11)

PRAYER

(1B) Chapter 18 deals with the arrest of Jesus. ^{and Trial} (1C) And in these first 11 verses we are looking at the betrayal by Judas. ^{Arrest of Jesus} There are several things, here, which I want you to notice. Much of which, by the way, is a fulfillment of prophecy. A fulfillment of prophecy in great detail.

(1D) IN THE FIRST COUPLE OF VERSES I WANT TO EXAMINE THE PLACE WHERE JESUS WAS BETRAYED. ^{Arrested} You say, what is so unusually about the place. Everybody knows that it was in the Garden of Gethsemana. So, what is so unusually?

The Bible says in Vs 1, "WHEN JESUS HAD SPOKEN THESE WORDS." What Words? This is referring back to chapter 17. Chapter 17 is the prayer that Jesus offered for His disciples. And He probably offered this prayer as He was standing before the Eastern gate, right in front of the Temple. The Eastern gate is the gate that the O.T. Prophets said the Messiah would come through. ^{and} It was there that Jesus offered this ^{High Priestly Prayer} ~~prayer~~ for His disciples.

Then, Vs 1, ^{of ch 18} says that He crossed over the little brook KIDRON, AND ~~then~~ He went up the sloop to the Mt. of Olives, or, the garden of Gethsemana.

Now, there are ² ~~three~~ things that I want to share with you about the place where Jesus was betrayed. The question that comes to my mind is: WHY DID CHRIST CHOOSE TO GO THERE TO BE BETRAYED? Why? ^{I Believe} ~~You see~~, no decision of Jesus was by accident. Everything was under divine plan. ^{But} These ~~three~~ ^{two} reasons stand out in my mind.

(1E) Number one, He had gone there many times, before, with his disciples.

The Bible teaches that. Luke chapter 21 verse 37 remains us that it was there He went often and spend all night praying. He had gone there many times with His disciples. And how meaningful that all these events would happen in the very place where He had spent many hours in prayer with his disciples.

(2E) ^{Number One} Secondly, He knew it would be easy for Judas to find him there.

It is amazing to me when the Bible says in Vs 2, "Judas, also, who was betraying Him, knew the place." He had been there many times.

Think of that...Jesus went to the Garden knowing that He was going to be betrayed. Knowing that they were against Him and hostile towards Him. Yet, He went to the place where Judas could easily find him.

And it only reminds me, again, of what the Bible teaches. That Jesus willingly gave of His life on the cross. Nobody forced Him to go to the cross. He could have easily, knowing the hostility of Judas, fled town and hid in the wilderness. But, oh, no...He went to that garden knowing that Judas would find him there. Jesus willingly gave himself up to die on the cross. ^{You talk about Love - Waw!}

(3E) But the ^{second} ~~third~~ reason ^{is really} ~~reminds me~~ as beautiful in type. Jesus was fulfilling the type as a son of David. For the same thing happened to King David.

~~If you will turn in your Bibles to 2 Samuel chapter 15, you will find this amazing story. Here we see the background. Jesus was actually fulfilling prophecy when He went to the Garden of Gethsemane to be betrayed.~~

2 Samuel chapter 15 and please notice vs 23...30...and 31....

This story is about King David. The greatest king in the history of the nation of Israel. It was said of King David that one of his son's would set on his throne forever. And Jesus, of course, was a son of King David. Both through his mother, Mary, and through Joseph who married Mary and was in the line of Solomon. Jesus was, therefore, an adopted son through the line of Joseph. He was, also, born into the line of David through Mary, who was in the line of Nathan, another son of David. - FANTASTIC

(Read 2 Samuel 15:23, 30-31)

at Do you understand? What a tremendous fulfillment of a ^{type} ~~type~~ about King David. In this story we learn that ~~Because~~ David was also betrayed by a dear friend. So, Jesus was betrayed in the same exact spot by a friend. And it was in fulfillment of prophecy. HOW WONDERFUL IS THE WORD OF GOD.

So, those are the ²⁻ ~~three~~ reasons concerning the PLACE OF HIS ^{arrest} ~~BETRAYAL~~.

Now, ~~let's come back to John 18~~

(2D) The second thing I want you to notice concerning ^{The Arrest of Jesus} ~~this betrayal by Judas~~ is the plot against the life of Jesus as mentioned in Vs 3.

at John 18:3, the plot against His life. Vs 3 says.. "Judas then, having received the Roman cohort, and officers from the Chief Priests and the Parisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons."

Not a whole lot is told us, here, about the events of Judas' betrayal. You can read about them in Matthew chapter 27. But, it does say in this third verses that a ^{cohort} ~~whole band~~ of Roman soldiers came. This was in addition to the Temple officers from the chief priests and Parisees.

Now, the word 'cohort' means: "1/10 of a legend. A Roman Legend has Six thousand soldiers in it.

So, if you thought this was just a little group of 10 or 12 soldiers coming into this garden to ^{arrest} ~~capture~~ Jesus....forget it.

It was 1/10 of a Legend. Or, 600 soldiers. This did not include the Temple Officers. In Matthew chapter 26, it says.. "a great multitude was there."

~~... if you thought this was just a simple thing, 10 or 12 men, is coming into this garden to capture Jesus. Forget it.~~

~~It was 1/10th of a legion. Or, 200 soldiers. This did not include the Temple officers. In Matthew Chapter 26, it says, "I was there."~~

Let me ask you a question

Now, why did such a large unit of soldiers come late at night, bearing those touches and carrying weapons?... WHY? *such a large group?*

I believe the answer is found in the events preceding this. They were afraid of the crowd. The great multitude of people who they knew ~~was~~ *suggested* ~~was~~ *very favorable* to Jesus. Remember: just a few days before, the crowds cried: HOSANNA TO THE SON OF DAVID. BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD." And it says that the whole city of Jerusalem was moved concerning Jesus.

So, they were deeply afraid. And they came with a full battalion of Roman soldiers to capture Jesus. That just amazes me....600 Roman Soldiers in addition to the Temple officers.

ok third
(3D) Beginning at Vs 4, we have unfolded for us the Power of Jesus. This is found in Vs 4 thru 9. The wonderful power of Jesus. And I want you to see this power in three ways.

(1E) First of all, as to His knowledge. Tremendous power of Jesus as to His knowledge. Vs 4 says "Jesus therefore, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth, and said to them, 'Whom do you seek?'"

He knew everything that was happening. All things He understood. And yet, in knowing all those things, He willingly and lovingly submitted Himself to the cross ~~and to His death~~. Talk about Love! WOW!!!

(2E) The second thing I want you to know about His power relates to His strength. His strength ^{of His word} as mentioned in Vs 6. And please remember that there are 600 Roman soldiers, *plus numerous temple guards and officials*

Vs 6 says, "When therefore He said to them, I AM HE." Some folks believe He is referring to the great name of JEHOVAH, "I AM THAT I AM." But, when he said that, Vs 6 says "they drew back and fell to the ground."

One liberal commentator in referring to this verse said that one of the soldiers tripped, and they all fell down like dominoes....600 Roman soldiers fell down like dominoes.....YOU MUST BE KIDDING....

It just amazes me when people who don't believe the Bible, what they have to come up with to explain what they read.

Dear,
Oh, friends, one look from Jesus and that entire battalin of ⁶⁰⁰ soldiers fell over backwards. Can you imagine how startled they were?

And in Vs 7, Jesus again ask them the question: "WHOM DO YOU SEEK?"
Now, why did he ask that question? Because He wanted to let them know who was incharge.

(This is free)

By the way, did you know that this is a fulfillment of prophecy?
A trmendous fulfillment of prophecy. In fact, on this one day, alone, there were 30 O.T. prophecies fulfilled.....30.....in this one day alone. And this is one of them. It is found in Psalms chapter 27 verese 1-2.

Here is what it says.....

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread? When evildoers come upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell."

Isn't that wonderful?

~~Our~~ Lord looked at His enemies as they came to capture Him and one look and they stumbled and fell.

* Now, just think of the application for your life and my life...

Dear friend, are you a little bit discourage this morrowing? Are you?

Listen, the Lord is my light and my salvation. WHOM SHALL I FEAR?
The context is that Jesus gave them one look and they all fell over backwards. Isn't it great to know that Jesus is on our side?

AMEN.....IF GOD IS FOR US WHO CAN BE AGAINST US.....RIGHT?... *Amen*

(3E) The third thing I want you to see about the Power of Jeuss is His authority.

Jesus made it clear that He was in absolute control of the situation and He would tell them what to do. And He always does it the same way. He excerses his power and *Proves* probes to you and to me that He has ever right to tell us what to do. WHY? Because He is God

And so we find, Jesus, the ^{so called} prisoner saying, Vs 8, "I told you that I am He; if therefore you seek me, let these (referring to his disciples) let these go their way."

He was telling the Roman soldiers what to do...6 hundred of them. And, also, all the officers of the chief priest. They had come to capture Jesus. But, who is capturing who?

Jesus Christ Said, "I'll tell you what to do." Just let these men go there way, and then you can take me.

Now, some people have ask the question..."Why this happened?" I don't think there is any question. .. If I were a Roman soldier, and I saw what happened, I am not going to question Him...No Way....Anyting you want to do, you do.....Go ahead and let those guys go.

~~The question is:~~ ^{*Why Did They Let Them Go?*} ~~WHY DID THEY LET THEM GO?~~ ~~Because they had seen the power of~~ *Jesus.* And anything that He wanted to say....Boy that was alræght with them.

Now, not recorded in John, but recorded in the other Gospels, the Bible says Vs 9... "that the word might be fulfilled which He spoke, 'of those whom thou hast given me I lost no one.'" Then...Vs 10 Peter draws a sword.

But, there is something in between. If you compare the other Gospels, it is at that point that Judas came forward and kissed Jesus. *The Kiss of Betrayal.*

Can you see what is going on? The soldiers were seeking Jesus. They came to capture him. But Jesus ask them: "Who do you seek." Then it was at this point that Judas ^{*once again,*} came forward and kissed Jesus on the cheek. Can you imigine the highth of that betrayal?

Gospels

The ~~Bible~~ records that Judas said, "Hail, Rabbi." ^{He} Didn't even call him by his name. And the ~~Bible~~ ^{Gospel} says that Jesus said to him, "Friend." And this was not the word "friend" meaning "loved one". He did not use that word. ^{He used} A very cold word... "FRIEND"; do what you have come for."

That is what the ~~Bible~~ ^{Gospel} says, that Jesus said to Judas. And I can't help, ^{put} myself in his shoes and wonder, how in the world did Judas have the courage to do that. Especially since Jesus clearly indicated his tremendous power. It must ^{have} ~~been~~ been the courage of a coward. It was the courage of one who had already been blinded by sin and self-righteousness. ~~It was the courage of one who had his own hopes about a Messiah destroyed when he learned that Christ had to die first.~~

And Judas stepped forward in that moment and did what still remains in history to be one of the greatest acts of betrayal the world has ever known.....Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver... *by a kiss*

This brings us
(4D) ~~well~~, vs 10-11, ~~we come~~ to the presumption of Peter.

Peter is presuming that Jesus has lost control of things, here. And so good old Peter, you know he is always helpful, isn't he? Peter decides that the Lord needs to be help out a little bit at this point. So, Vs 10, Simon Peter therefore having a sword."

Now, doesn't that surprise you a little bit? I mean, they have had dinner, and you do not put ⁱⁿ in your tunic while you are having dinner... They left the upper room and went ~~to~~ ^{to} the garden and had this wonderful prayer, after all they had gone there many times to sleep. You don't take a sword when you are going to do the familiar... What was the matter with Peter?

Folks
Listen, Peter already heard those words of betrayal...And I don't think it is wrong to imagine because of the actions of Judas in that upper room to conclude: Hay, I don't know what is going on, but I am going to be prepared."

And so Peter wipps out this sword. And the funny thing about this is, It is so like Peter. So head strong. Always putting his foot in his mouth.....HE drew his sword, he struck at the high priest's servant, AND HE MISSED....HE MISSED...Doesn't that strick you as funny? He drew that sword and struck at the nearest person and missed and only got the guys ear.....How, could you miss...There were ~~600~~ 600 of them... (He)

But, anyway, he cut off the right ear. And of all people to choose, It says the servants name was Malchus.. Now, Malchus was the servant of the High Priest....Of all guys to ~~pick~~ ^{pick} The one servant who is the number one servant of the High Priest. And Peter picks on him...Poor Peter, cann't do anything right. He missed and only got his ear....

Vs 11, Jesus said ~~to~~ Peter, Put up your sword and listen to these words, "THE CUP WHICH THE FATHER HAS GIVEN ME, SHALL I NOT DRINK IT?"

I wonder what Peter thought?.....~~Christ~~ ^{Jesus} repuked him for trying to hinder the purposes of God....

Do we ever do that?

~~Like many of us~~, We are always trying to hinder the purposes of God.

~~Christ~~ was to die...He had told his disciples that he was to die. He told them he had to suffer.

And yet, in this moment, Peter losing sight of the purposes of God tried, in the flesh, to solve the problem.

Come on fellows, let's get them....We can take them...600 Roman soldier I ~~mean~~, how many is he going to cut the ears off...

But you know, I do like Peter...Sometimes we are hard on Peter. Maybe we do that because we are so much like Peter. The Bible says that Peter diened Christ. But it also says that all the disciples forsook Jesus, It wasn't just Peter.

But, I like Peter. I like his courage in that moment. With 600 soldiers against you and all the officers of Temple. And this little band of 11 is going to take them on.....I like that courge, very much.

~~We need a little of Peter's courage...~~

We could use a little of Peter's courage in our witness. We could use a little of Peter's courage in the defense of the Gospel. And the truth of the matter is that we have all the power we will ever need. We have the Holy Spirit who dwells in the life of each believer. And if God is for us, who can be against us. For Jesus is the one who died for our sins and was raised from the dead and now sits at the right hand of the Father. It is Jesus who intercedes for us. And dear friends, we are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us, ~~before we loved him.~~ *We could use a little of Peter's courage*

I trust you know this Jesus who died for your sins. I trust you have given him your life. And if you haven't, then why not today. Today...say ~~YES~~ TO Jesus.

Let's close in prayer