

# John 18vs1-27

Betrayal and Arrest

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# Betrayal and Arrest

## John 18 vs 1-27

In John 18 we return to the historical narrative which was “interrupted” by the Upper Room Discourse at the end of Chapter 12. John’s eyewitness account of Jesus’ rejection, betrayal, denial and death could have gone straight from the end of Chapter 12 to the start of Chapter 18 without a break, but John wanted us to “know” Jesus’ vital teaching to his Apostles in the Upper Room.

Remember the structure of this closing section of John:

- ch 11 – LIFE ( Lazarus’ resurrection)
- ch 12 - DEATH ( Jesus heads to the Cross)
- chs 13-17 – what it means to have LIFE NOW!
- chs 18-19 – DEATH (the Cross)
- ch 20 – LIFE – (Jesus’ Resurrection)

So – this whole section is about LIFE from God which comes through the death of Jesus.

Chapters 18 and 19 focus our attention back in on the death of Jesus. As we read these chapters we will find that (like ANY piece of writing) the writer assumes we have read the earlier chapters and he expects us to draw links between what Jesus is doing and saying in these chapters and what he has taught us earlier! We need to keep our wits about us!!

The study divides into two parts:

- Part 1: An intentional death (vs 1-11)
- Part 2: A substitutionary death (vs 12-27)

### ***Part 1: An intentional death***

Read John 18 vs 1-14: *When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. <sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup> So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” <sup>5</sup> They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus said to them, “I am he”, they drew back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup> So he asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.” <sup>9</sup> This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.” <sup>10</sup> 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.) <sup>11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?” <sup>12</sup> So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. <sup>13</sup> First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup> It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.*

From vs 1-11, what are the different indications that Jesus intends to go to his death?

- He chose where to go:

vs 1-2: *When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. <sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples.*

- He hands himself over:

v4: *Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"*

- He identifies himself as "**I AM**":

v5: ***Jesus said to them, "I am he."***

- He is the authority figure:

v6: *When Jesus said to them, "I am he", they drew back and fell to the ground.*

- He refuses to escape:

v7: *So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."*

- He fulfils his promise:

v9: *This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one."*

- Throughout the whole encounter, he leads the conversation:

v4: Jesus ***came forward and said to them, "Who do you seek?"***

v7: ***So he asked them again, "Who do you seek?"***

v11: ***So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath..."***

## Notice...

v10: (***The servant's name was Malchus.***)

The detail John gives us here in naming Malchus is classic historical John. Presumably Malchus or at least his relatives would have still been alive when John wrote this – so such information is an invitation to “Go check what I am writing”!

So... the entire incident is one in which Jesus shows absolute control. His arrest is not an accident, but part of his plan.

Of all that we've seen, this comes through most clearly in Jesus' statement, “***I am he.***” He is using God's name for himself and it blows his enemies off their feet... LITERALLY!!

v6: *When Jesus said to them, “I am he”, they drew back and fell to the ground.*

But why does Jesus want to go to his death?

v11: *So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”*

Jesus is clear that he must go to his death and “***drink the cup that the Father has given...***”

Verse 11 raises the question of precisely what is intended by the death of Jesus.

So, what is Jesus referring to when he speaks of “***the cup***”?

Well – the idea of a “***cup***” from God is not a new one. We find reference to it in the Old Testament books of Jeremiah and Isaiah:

- In Jeremiah: the cup of God's wrath given to his enemies who deserve punishment.

Read Jeremiah 25 v 15: *Thus the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: “Take from my hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.”*

- In Isaiah: the cup of God's wrath that has been given to his people who deserve punishment.

Read Isaiah 51 v 22: *“Thus says your Lord, the LORD, your God who pleads the cause of his people: “Behold, I have taken from your hand the cup of staggering; the bowl of my wrath you shall drink no more...”*

- This passage is followed by Isaiah chapters 52-53 that set out: Salvation - coming through the Messiah - who takes the cup of God's judgement.

So – just before Jesus goes to the cross, we see:

- Jesus' absolute control
- ...and his divine sovereignty
- ...and his explanation of what will happen as he goes to his death.

...He is going to his death to drink the cup of his Father's wrath.

This all raises the question: Why?

... After all, Jesus doesn't deserve God's wrath.

## ***Part 2: A substitutionary death***

How is this reading of v11 confirmed for us by what we are told in vs 12-14?

vs 12-14: *So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. <sup>13</sup> First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup> It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.*

Do you remember how Caiaphas prophesied back in ch11?

Read John ch 11 vs 49-53: *But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. <sup>50</sup> Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." <sup>51</sup> He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, <sup>52</sup> and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. <sup>53</sup> So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.*

Caiaphas' prophecy was that "**ONE MAN**" would die on behalf of the people so that the whole nation would not perish!!

John wants us to remember this so that we'll understand Jesus' death.

Now Jesus confirms that he will drink "**the cup**" of his Father's judgement on behalf of others.

- Does this mean that Jesus is an unwilling victim of an abusive Father?!

(This is an issue often raised by people who object to Jesus' substitutionary death.)

Answer: "**Shall I not drink the cup?**" .....Jesus WANTS to do his Father's will – it's been his entire mission! His will IS the Father's will!

In summary...

These events:

- Are totally “on plan”
- Jesus IS in charge as God – the great “**I AM**”
- It is his choice
- His will is the Father’s will
- The cost is “**the cup**” - in answer to God’s anger at sin and God’s understandable judgement on those who reject him.

So... is the Cross just a great “example” of Jesus’ love?

- NO – the CROSS always has been THE focus of Jesus’ mission

Theologians use the phrase “**Penal Substitution**”:

Jesus:

- carrying the punishment of God’s judgement through his death on the Cross (hence ‘penal’)
- ...in our place (hence ‘substitution’)

God’s purpose has been for Jesus to die for us – which surely tells us how much he loves us... what greater show of love can there be?!

So – are we clear on the **penal** bit? Jesus came to die to pay the price of God’s judgement.

Now to explain the **substitution** bit even further, John illustrates it by comparing Peter and Jesus.

*Read John 18 vs 15-27: Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, <sup>16</sup> but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. <sup>17</sup> The servant girl at the door said to Peter, “You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” <sup>18</sup> Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.*

*<sup>19</sup> The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. <sup>20</sup> Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. <sup>21</sup> Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?”*

*23 Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?"*

*24 Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.*

*25 Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." 26 One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" 27 Peter again denied it, and at once a cock crowed.*

vs 15 -27 represent a sandwich:

- 2 sections about Peter
- Jesus in the centre

How is Peter portrayed in the 2 sections?

...Feeble:

vs 16-17 - he can't even stand up to '**a servant girl**'!

vs 25-26 - he can't even stand up to a crowd of servants!

What does Peter do in the two sections?

He DENIES his relationship with Jesus:

*v17: The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."*

*v25: Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not."*

*vs 26-27: One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" 27 Peter again denied it, and at once a cock crowed.*

Who is Peter..?

- The "lead" disciple of John chapter 1:

*Read John 1 v 42: He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).*

... Cephas in Aramaic = 'Rock'

...Peter in Greek = Rock!!

- Peter – the Rock – to be the most committed of the lot!!

- The Peter who in ch 13 v 8 said “...***You shall never wash my feet!***”
- The Peter who in ch 13 v 37 says, “***Lord – I’ll will lay down my life for you***”!!
- The Peter who here in ch 18: ... ***having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant.***

Peter repeatedly doesn’t understand the necessity of Jesus’ death, and thinks he can play his part to prevent it.

So what are we learning here?

We are being shown that EVEN Peter... the most promising, committed, wholehearted and courageous of all the disciples FAILS hopelessly and repeatedly in the most humiliating of circumstances – in front of a servant girl... and this happens three times!!

How absolutely “like us” Peter is!!

- We repeatedly fail Jesus and let him down.
- We are NOT spiritually strong enough to stand for Jesus in our own strength!
- The thought that we are so sinful that we needed Jesus to die for us is offensive to “good, upright folk”.

Now let’s look again at vs 18 -25:

The narrative could run quite happily directly from...

v18: *Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.*

...to v25:

v25: *Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.”*

...and that is how we would surely have expected the narrative to go... yet we get vs 19-24 in the middle – WHY?

- Jesus stands up to the High Priest and the Jewish Officers
- He remains the true “***I AM***” – who perfectly and consistently does God’s WILL!!
- Whereas, in contrast, Peter (‘mankind’) can’t and doesn’t stand up to either a servant girl or a bunch of servants!

Instead, he warms himself while his King is intentionally going to his death for him.



Here, then, is Jesus the substitute... who perfectly does what you and I fail to do!

In summary:

Let's put the two parts of the study together:

Part 1: An INTENTIONAL DEATH

Part 2: A SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH

Why does Jesus go purposefully to his death?

- To be a substitute for us all.

### ***To consider...***

What does this have to do with you and me?

- What was your view of why Jesus died BEFORE you started these studies in JOHN?
- How has your view changed?!
  
- What was your view of yourself BEFORE you started these studies in JOHN?
- How has your view changed?!

What does this passage show that we are being offered?

v11: ***"...Shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"***

v14: ***...that one man should die for the people.***

### ***Next time...***

The innocent King has come to die on behalf of the people...

How will the people respond?!

## *John 18 vs 1-27*

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