

True Submission

John 18:1-11

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

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.

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."

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.

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

With this passage we move from the shadows with the disciples to the violence of the night.

There are several things found in the other gospels that John sees no need of repeating for us. He leaves Matthew's and Luke's account of the prayer in the garden alone. Instead he has given us chapter 17 that we have just finished.

Judas, inspired by the devil himself, has finished his plan to betray Jesus for the price of a slave. The last time we saw Judas it was just before the institution of the Lord's Supper, when Judas leaves the others to do what he now is doing, bringing the soldiers to take Jesus away.

The enemies of Jesus will have their way. They will, by stealth, take Jesus by night and have two illegal trials, requiring Jesus to testify against himself, which was also illegal in those days.

Their time has come. They now have power, given them by God to carry out their evil plan.

The disciples are caught up in all of this but as we see Jesus secures their freedom. Most of them will flee for their very lives. Only John and Peter will follow to see what will happen.

We must remember that things are not what they appear to be. It appears that everything is now turned against Jesus. It appears that His enemies are in control. It seems that Jesus has no choice in the events that are taking place. But as we will see Jesus was submitting. He could have

escaped and destroyed those who would destroy Him. But that was not the plan. As the Jews would later say in truth, "He saved other, Himself He could not save."

Let us look at this passage.

- I. He submitted to those who hated Him.
 - A. Submission is something that we all experience.
 1. No one is above this rule, just ask our former governor.
 2. Sometimes it is even a good thing such as children submitting to their parents.
 3. Or as we all submit to the government.
 4. But usually we submit to those who have our best interest at heart.
 - B. But here Jesus submits to those who will not be satisfied until they have killed Him.
 1. They have no other goal.
 2. They will accept no other outcome.
 3. We see this when Pilate whips Jesus so mercilessly yet they call out for Him to be crucified.
 4. They would have done it themselves if they had had the legal power.
 5. They abuse and try to shame Him before they turn Him over to Pilate.
 6. We must never forget that this is unregenerate man's true attitude toward God, just read the second Psalm.
 - C. Don't let us forget the words of Jesus earlier when He warned the disciples that if the world hate Him, they would hate them also.
- II. He did not submit because He was helpless.
 - A. Notice how He exerts His power when they come to get Him.
 1. 6 Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground.
 - B. In this we see His willingness to suffer in our place.
 1. He did not have to suffer and die.
 2. They did not overpower Him.
 3. They did not out maneuver Him.

4. But Isa 50:6 says, “I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.”
5. Isa 53:8, For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

III. In His submission He preserved the lives of the apostles.

- A. Because of His demonstration of power they let the disciples go.
- B. It was not their time to suffer, that would come later.

IV. Most importantly His submission was to the will of the Father.

- A. Peter tries to defend Jesus.
- B. Jesus command Peter to put away the sword.
- C. He declares His purpose.
 1. What the Father has laid out for Him, He will do.
 2. He will drink every drop of the cup that the Father has given Him.
 3. You see God had a plan to rescue you from hell, which you deserved.
 4. That plan is being played out in the life of His only begotten Son in this passage.
 5. Jesus will not draw back from the flame.
 6. He will not run to escape the shame and the pain.
 7. But He gladly suffers for you there in order to forgive you of your sin.
 8. Heb 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
 9. But let us consider the verse that come before that. Heb 12:1 (NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
 10. Are you set to run the race, for Him who died in your place?