

The Book of John:
The Disciple Jesus Loved
Study Notes

Chapter 18 PT. 1: Judas Betrays Jesus

Introduction: We have ended the High Priestly Prayer in **John 17**, and we see the Heart of Jesus towards His Father, His Disciples and towards all future Believers, all while knowing He was about to be betrayed.

John 18:1-24

Verses 1-3

John 18:1-3 (NASB) - ¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, He went away with His disciples across the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden which He entered with His disciples. ² Now Judas, who was betraying Him, also knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with His disciples. ³ So Judas, having obtained the *Roman* cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.



Understanding: We can better understand why Jesus prayed to the Father in the High Priestly Prayer (**John 17:5**), that He finish His assignment and be returned to His place in Heaven where He came from.

- He did this because He knew Judas was betraying Him.
- He knew His time on earth was almost over.
- He knew He needed help to Finish.
- He retreated to the Garden (**Garden of Gethsemane - Matthew 26:36, Mark 14:32**).

Verses 4-6

John 18:4-6 (NASB) - ⁴ Jesus therefore, **knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, came out *into the open*** and said to them, “Whom are you seeking?” ⁵ They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He said to them, “I am *He*.” And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. ⁶ Now then, when He said to them, “**I am He,**” they drew back and fell to the ground.



Question: People ask, why did the Roman Soldiers fall to the ground in **Verse 6**?

Answer: The Power of His Name.

Note: “*He*” is italicized, meaning it was added to give better sentence structure.

Exodus 3:13-14 (NASB) – ¹³ Then Moses said to God, “Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ Now they may say to me, ‘What is His name?’ What shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ And God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM**”; and He said, “This is what you shall say to the sons of Israel: ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’”

I AM-(Hebrew)-*haya*-to be, to exist, i.e., be or become, come to pass.

- The Authority and Divine Power are released through His name.
- Jesus shows He has the Power and Authority over the power that is coming against Him.
- He is demonstrating that He laid His life down and no man could take it (**John 10: 17-18**).

Verses 7-9

John 18:7-9 (NASB) – ⁷ He then asked them again, “Whom are you seeking?” And they said, “Jesus the Nazarene.” ⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you that I am *He*; so if you are seeking Me, let these *men* go on their way.” ⁹ ***This took place so that the word which He spoke would be fulfilled:*** “Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one.”

Remember: If Scripture states, “so this must be fulfilled” Jesus reminds us Himself that it is His own words He is referring to (**John 17:12 - High Priestly Prayer**).

Verses 10-11

John 18:10-11 (NASB) - ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, since he had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave’s name was Malchus. ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, “Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, am I not to drink it?”



- Peter is given a mild rebuke.
- Peter still is not fully understanding, they are not taking His life.
- Jesus must now perform another miracle as recorded in **Luke 22:50-51**.

Jesus Before The Priest

Verses 12-14

John 18:12-14 (NASB) - ¹² So the *Roman* cohort, the commander, and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him, ¹³ and brought Him to Annas first; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was in their best interest for one man to die in behalf of the people.



Remember: Caiaphas was not a Pharisee but a Jewish High Priest belonging to the sect of the Sadducees.

- He was the leader of the Sanhedrin that plotted to kill Jesus.
- He did it to protect his political standing with Rome, not to protect the Nation of Israel as he states.

Verses 15-16

John 18:15-16 (NASB) - ¹⁵ Simon Peter was following Jesus, and *so was another disciple*. Now **that disciple** was known to the high priest, and he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in.

Understanding: “That Disciple” was **John the Apostle**, the author of this Gospel.

- Many scholars believe that John’s ability to enter the high priest’s palace was likely due to family connections to the priestly class.
- John’s connections enabled him to facilitate Peter’s entry.
- Unfortunately, this access revealed something in Peter that Jesus already told him would happen.

The Beginning of Denial

Verses 17-18

John 18:17-18 (NASB) - ¹⁷ Then the slave woman who was the doorkeeper said to Peter, “You are not also *one* of this Man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “**I am not.**” ¹⁸ Now the slaves and the officers were standing *there*, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter was also with them, standing and warming himself.



- The three denials did not all happen at once.
- The fear grew over time as he watched the fate of Jesus.
- This was just the first time.

Verse 19-21

John 18:19-21 (NASB) - ¹⁹ The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple *area*, where all the Jews congregate; and I said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why are you asking Me? Ask those who have heard what I spoke to them. Look: these people know what I said.”



- Jesus never spoke in secret.
- Jesus knew why He was being arrested.
- He asked the question “**Why are you asking Me?**” because He knows the heart of His accusers.

Verses 22-24

John 18:22-24 (NASB) - ²² But when He said this, one of the officers, who was standing nearby, struck Jesus, saying, “Is that the way You answer the high priest?” ²³ Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?” ²⁴ So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.



Understanding: NEVER FORGET the suffering Yeshua endured for us to have salvation. Though the suffering was great, His response was greater! We must examine and mature in our own response with confidence and rest in His sovereignty.

The End