

Jesus Betrayed/ Triumphant

John 18:1-11

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Jesus is in total control of the chaos that surrounds Him.

King Jesus conquers through apparent defeat!

Where is God when bad things happen? (2 answers)

“Christ went more willingly to the cross than we do to the throne of Grace.” Thomas Watson.

The Betrayal of Judas v. 1-3

Where did Jesus lead them? Why?

What are the parallels with the garden?

Jesus orchestrated the events that led to the cross.

Who came with Judas? Roman Soldiers and temple officers sent by the chief priests and Pharisees.

Why so many soldiers?

How Does Jesus Command the Scene? v. 4

Jesus knows what is coming and boldly approaches the hostile crowd.

“I am” – *ego eimi*.

Jesus could have gained the victory in military terms.

Jesus is in control of events. These things happen *by His authority!*

I am giving Myself willingly into their hands. (John 10:18)

Not by the Sword v. 10-11

Peter took up a sword against a multitude of well-armed soldiers.

That is commendable, right? But Jesus rebukes Peter.

Jesus must drink His Father’s cup of wrath.

Evil is real. Bad things happen to good people.

Meditation

Jesus Himself testifies to His voluntary sacrifice: “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from My Father” (John 10:17-18).

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, gave Himself for us (Ephesians 5:2). He did not offer riches, as He could have – not even all the riches of the universe – but instead He offered Himself, which was more precious than anything else in the universe. As Paul makes clear, “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9)...

Christ’s willingness did not merely encompass His voluntary death on the cross. Rather, His entire life was an offering and one of willing obedience to God’s will. From the cradle to the grave, so to speak, Jesus acted out of love, which makes obedience acceptable to God. Therefore, His willingness was a conscious decision to fulfill not His own will, but the will of the One who sent Him (John 6:38).

(Octavius Winslow wrote), “Who delivered up Jesus to die? Not Judas, for money; not Pilate, for fear; not the Jews, for envy; – but the Father, for love!”

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