

The Arrest: Absolute Surrender



John 18:1-11

- The eighteenth chapter begins a new section of our gospel.
- John 18 opens with an account of the Savior and His disciples entering the Garden.
- “Into that Garden,” hallowed by so many associations, the Lord entered, with the eleven; and there took place the agony related in the Synoptics, but wholly passed over by John.
- The Kidron Valley is located east of Jerusalem, between the city wall and the Mount of Olives, and the garden of Gethsemane is on the western slope of Olivet.
- Human history began in a garden (Gen. 2:8), and the first sin of man was committed in that garden.
- History will one day end in another garden, the heavenly city that John describes in Revelation 21 and 22.
- The name Gethsemane means “oil press.”
- The brook Kidron is also significant.
- The Kidron had special historical significance, for King David crossed the Kidron when he was rejected by his nation and betrayed by his own son, Absalom (2 Sam. 15).
- Jesus fully knew what lay before Him, yet He went to the garden in obedience to the Father’s will.
- Jesus Christ give us an excellent picture of absolute surrender.

1. A devotion to God (V. 1-3).

A. Jesus “left” to prepare Himself spiritually.

- But to do God’s will, He had to have God’s help.
- The point tears at the heart of the believer, for Jesus knew He was to bear the sins of the world upon the cross, and the pressure was almost unbearable.

B. Jesus left, went forth to prepare the scene so that God’s will would be done.

- Jesus is the believer’s dynamic example (Matt. 14:23; Mark 1:35; Rom. 8:26; Psa. 55:17; 73:28; 91:15; Ia. 26:3-4; Jer. 33:3).
- Detachment (v. 3): this was a cohort of soldiers.

2. Jesus went forth – willingly – confessing who He was (v. 4-6).
 - A. Jesus went forth voluntarily.
 - B. Jesus made a courageous confession and claim.
 - C. There was a miraculous blast of revelation in the words “I AM.”
 - This is critical. Men must heed the claim of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 6:2; John 3:18; 8:24; Heb. 3:12-14; Prov. 29:1; Jer. 8:20).

3. Jesus went forth – vicariously (v. 7-9).
 - Note that Jesus’ act fulfilled Scripture (Psa. 41:9; 109:4-13).

4. An unswerving obedience (v. 10-11).
 - The picture painted by Peter’s behavior is carnal commitment, the kind of commitment that acts and struggles in the flesh.
 - Peter misunderstood the Lord’s Word.
 - Cup (v. 11). Jesus Christ was determined not to fear nor shrink from death.
 - The Lord knew he was to die from the very beginning, and He has been preparing His disciples for His death.