

John 18:1-18 – Jesus’ Arrest

All the Gospels cover Jesus’ arrest, trial, crucifixion and resurrection. John’s Gospel continued to fill in gaps that the other Gospel did not cover. Jesus was going back to the Father but not before completing the work given to him by the Father. Jesus knew that it was necessary for him to suffer and to die on the cross. He was to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). He was going to lay down his life for the sheep. John emphasized the point Jesus made in John 10:15-18. No one took Jesus’ life from him. He laid down his life for the sheep of his own accord. He would lay down his life and then take it up again.

Read John 18:1-11.

After Jesus’ High Priestly prayer, he crossed the Kidron Valley with his disciples. Some translations have “brook”, “torrent” or “ravine” for “Valley”. The Kidron Valley, which they crossed, lies between the Temple Mount on the west and the Mount of Olives on the east. The slopes are pretty steep and when the snow melts or when there is a heavy rain, the bottom of the valley becomes a brook or a torrent. Matthew and Mark mention the name of the place where they went, Gethsemane. Only John referred to it as a garden.

How did Judas know where Jesus would be? Who was sent with Judas to arrest Jesus? What did they bring with them? (18:2-3)

What did Jesus do when he knew that a group was coming to arrest him? (18:4)

When the crowd said that they they were seeking Jesus of Nazareth, how did Jesus respond? How did the crowd respond to Jesus? What did John want to emphasize in his telling of the arrest? (18:5-6)

In verse 7, Jesus had to ask the crowd a second time, “Whom do you seek?” What did Jesus want the crowd to do? In 17:12, Jesus said that he did not loose any of the disciples except for Judas, the son of destruction. (18:7-9)

In verse 10, what did Simon Peter do? What did Peter's action reveal about his understanding of what Jesus had told the disciples earlier that evening?

What did Jesus say to Peter in response to what Peter did? What details did John include which the other Gospels did not? (18:11)

Read John 18:12-14.

Who arrested and bound Jesus? (18:12) Notice that the "officers of the Jews" were earlier described as "officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, in verse 3.

Where did they first bring Jesus? Who was Annas? Who was Caiaphas? (18:13-14)

Read John 18:15-18.

Who were the two disciples who followed Jesus? Which disciple entered into the courtyard of the chief priest with Jesus? How did Peter gain entrance to the courtyard? (18:15-16)

What did the servant girl, who watched the door, ask Peter? Was she making an accusation or was she asking an open question? How did Peter answer her? Contrast Peter's response with Jesus' response to his captors. (18:17)

What did Peter do after his first denial? (18:18)

What can we learn from Peter's actions in chapter 18:1-18?