

# When the Man Stands His Ground

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John 18:1-11

*Clearly the spiritual reality, John wants us to see is SUBSTITUTION. The idea is not that JESUS simply is mistreated and killed. The idea is that JESUS gave His live for His people.*

The SPIRITUAL REALITY of SUBSTITUTION gets to the HEART of the GOSPEL.

- In terms of our dealings with GOD, another PERSON is SUBSTITUTED in.
- So that our relationship with GOD, does not depend on ourselves but CHRIST.
- A Verse and an Illustration.
  - The Verse: Galatians 3:13 – [13] *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”*
    - In the Old Covenant, Deuteronomy 21... you hung the cursed body on a pole.
    - Jesus was the epitome of what it meant to be cursed.
    - Christ redeemed us (paid our penalty) by becoming a CURSE for us. The Cursing and Judgment that belong to us, he became.
  - ILLUSTRATION:
- JESUS substituted HIMSELF in our place so that he Might Redeem us.
- John 15:13 – [13] *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*

Four Observations that Point to Substitution.

## Observation 1: The Garden

18:1 – [1] *When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered?*

It is Thursday night... Jesus has come from the Upper Room... where He instituted the Lord's Table at their Passover Meal.

- They cross the Kidron Valley... a wide open area East of Jerusalem.
- Jesus leads his disciples across this valley to the MOUNT of OLIVES...where there was a Garden...
  - Though Matthew and Mark tell us the NAME – It is Gethsemane.
  - Which means “oil press” – of Olive Trees

John simply CALLS it “a GARDEN.”

- We must remember what happened in the GARDEN... The GARDEN of EDEN.
- Our first parents were placed in the GARDEN by GOD. Told to take dominion of the whole Earth (Gen 1:28).
- They were told that they could eat of any fruit of the Garden except from *the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.*
- Satan came into the GARDEN in the form of a SERPENT.
  - He questioned God... and He deceived Eve so that she ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. And she gave some to her Adam.
  - They committed treason against God.

- The GARDEN is where SIN entered the WORLD....
- It was in a wonderful GARDEN that DEATH entered the world.
  - Romans 5:12 – [12] *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned...*
- The GARDEN is **at the HEART of the HUMAN PREDICAMENT.**
- Not only does DEATH separate our soul from our body... it also separates us from God.
  - Isaiah 59:2 – [2] *but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.*
  - *So JESUS goes back to the GARDEN as a 2<sup>nd</sup> and FINAL ADAM to undo what ADAM did. To CARRY out GOD's WILL!*
  - Paul makes this connection explicit. Romans 5:15 – [15]...*For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.*
- JESUS goes to the GARDEN... determined to go to the BOTTOM of DEATH itself... to DRINK up the PUNISHMENT of GOD ... and to be truly and completely obedient.

### **Observation 2: The Evil Opposition**

18:2 – [2] *Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples.*

Judas was the only disciple from Judea...

- What had sent him over the edge – was the act at Bethany – when Mary had anointed Jesus with pure NARD – a very expensive perfume from the far east...
  - Judas protested... said it could have been sold for 300 denarii (a year's wages) and given to the poor.
  - Jesus had rebuked JUDAS... John 12:7 – [7] *Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. [8] For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."*
  - Luke tells us that Satan entered into Judas... and he went to the Chief priests and officers with a plan to betray JESUS. (Luke 22:3)

18:3 – [3] *So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.*

- Judas, with Satan possessing him, comes to the Garden to arrest JESUS.
- Band of Soldiers – (speira); Greek – Roman Cohort (1/10) of a Roman Legion.
  - Verse 12 – tells us that a Cohort commander was present (chiliarchos)
  - A Roman cohort could be a thousand... most often it was between 600 and 750 foot soldiers.
  - So many ROMANS are involved with the ARREST.
- In addition, some officers from the Temple Guard were there.
- And they come with lanterns – Terra Cotta holders – in which you could burn oil or candles.
- And torches – Resinous pieces of wood that were fastened together.

*Satan marshals against the Messiah the WORLD's POWER and the RELIGIOUS POWER.*

- Rome represents the political power.
- The chief priests and the Pharisees represent the religious power.

- Satan uses government and false religion in order to persecute the people of God.
- At the Gate of the GARDEN... God made a PROMISE to SATAN.
  - Genesis 3:15 – [15] *he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*
  - God promised that an offspring of the woman... would crush Satan's head.

### **Observation 3: The Divine Power**

18:4 – [4] *Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"*

- Seeing the THREAT... and KNOWING everything that will take place (DIVINE OMNISCIENCE)
- He charges forward.
- *Exerchomai* – Goes out. Comes out. Goes Forth.

He asks them... *"Whom do you seek?"* To clarify that it is only him they can arrest. And not the disciples.

18:5 – [5] *They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas who betrayed him, was standing with them.*

- When Jesus says, "I am he," He is saying... the divine name of GOD.
- As we have seen in John's Gospel... this is a statement of deity.
  - "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35; 48)
  - "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12)
  - "I am the door of the sheep" (John 10:7; 9)
  - "I am the Good Shepherd" (John 10:11; 14)
  - "I am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25)
  - "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6)
  - "I am the true vine" (John 15:1; 5)

18:6 – [6] *When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.*

- When he says "Eigo Eime" a phenomenon happens...
- J. B. Phillips said... they retreated...it is what you do when you are in awe or you are afraid...
- And then they fell to the ground...

18:7 – [7] *So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." [8] Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go."*

- Jesus commands the situation by demonstrating divine power.
- The Roman legionnaire, the cohort, the Temple Guard, and Judas... all must yield to the power of JESUS.

[9] *This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one."*

- John 17:12 – [12] *While I was with them, I kept them in your name which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.*

#### **Observation 4: The Cup of God's Wrath**

John 18:10 – [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.)*

- Peter does this because he sees that Jesus is in charge and in control of the situation.
- Malchus's name was left out of the other gospels. It is a Arabic name... most likely a prisoner of war.

18:11 – [11] *So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"*

- Jesus says to put AWAY the SWORD, because He must go forward with the DIVINE MISSION.
- To DRINK the CUP of GOD's WRATH.
- The CUP is a CUP of JUDGMENT:
- Psalm 75:8 – [8] *For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup of foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs*
- Isaiah 51:17 – [17] *Wake yourself, stand up, O Jerusalem, you have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath.*

This is the apostolic interpretation of the CROSS.

- 1 John 2:2 – [2] *He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*
- Hebrews 2:17 – says as a high priest he made *"propitiation for the sins of the people."*