

John's Gospel @ CF!

John 18:1-11

Sermon notes – BK

February 15, 2026

Well, I sure appreciated the team that taught through Romans 8, how about you?

So grateful for our church!

Thank you again for allowing us time away to rejuvenate a bit, to have more concentrated time to read, to write and to for Sandi and I to just be together.

I love being with my bride...

I love my family

I love you all...

But my favorite place on this planet is to be with my wife.

SOOO... thank you for that!

Hopefully you will see some things that were birthed on our time alone to come to fruition...

THIS brings us BACK to the Gospel of John!

As I mentioned a while ago, we are scheduled to hit John 20 just in time for Resurrection Sunday!

This means, I kinda need to stay on schedule between here and there!

Today we are hitting on the first 11 verses of John 18

Getting back into a Narrative...

Unlike the teaching in Romans, you have been hearing over the last four Sundays... a different literary style..

- We are in the middle of **THE** story... actually watching the source of their teaching unfold.
- First-hand teaching from the Author and finisher of our faith, and the narrative of how it unfolds...

It is kind of cool to think of the Gospel of John this way...

Since chapter 13, we have been in the Upper Room with Jesus...

When we started in chapter 13,

- The *public ministry of Jesus had stopped and shifted* into time *just with His disciples...*

Now here in chapter 18,

- The *private ministry of Jesus with His disciples stopped as well.*

The many times Jesus spoke of His time being short... has now come time.

- We feel the weight of the shift
- We can only imagine what the disciples were thinking as they see this all unfold...

BEFORE we get into the rest of these chapters, it is important to be reminded of how John's Gospel is unique to the other three Gospels.

- As we get into this passage, we see that John's recording has some different details than the others.

He DOES NOT include things the OTHERS DO in this part of the story...

- He doesn't include that **they sung a hymn (like the other three did)**
- Jesus **praying in the Garden** while the **Disciples fell asleep**
- **John does not include Judas kissed Jesus**
- **John does not include the healing of the servant's ear**

He DOES include things the OTHERS DO NOT in this part of the story...

- **Where they crossed to get there (Kidron valley/brook)**
- **Jesus' repeating "I am he."**
- **The soldiers falling down at Jesus' saying this the first time**

- The naming of Malchus (the high priest's servant) who's ear got cut off...

John highlights Jesus' divine knowledge and control in the situation.

PAUSE

This is why it is so good to read ALL the Gospel accounts

- Different *colors*
- Different *details* for the audiences they are writing to
- Different *purposes* to cover the things they did
- Same story... different angles.

Remember, John wrote this AFTER the other three... maybe as much as 30 years after the first Gospel (Mark) was written and distributed...

Here we see some of the details that help us understand even more the amazing God we serve and who Jesus is even more clearly...

PRAY

- *As these last four chapters unfold over these next several weeks – We would see it all with fresh eyes*
- *As we read these words and look deeper into the details – that we would connect more deeply with our amazing Redeemer, Jesus.*
- *Amen...*

John 18:1-11

¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. 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. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” ⁵ They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.⁶ When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. 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.” ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.” 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.)¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

I do not usually teach with defined points... but sometimes they just jump out at me...

- Maybe the time off sparked something new! (NOT likely!)**
- THIS TIME, it all seemed to fit, so I thought I'd go with it...**

- If you like it, great! If you don't – You're probably fine!

I see four different sections we can take a look at, as we go through these verses...

John 18:1-2 – The Willing Walk

¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples.

Jesus willingly walked to a place He knew Judas would know about...

Have you thought about this before?

- It was out of the way, so as not to create a commotion
- It was familiar enough that the disciples would not question it, but Judas would know where to go
- It was private enough for Jesus to have time to pray
- It was open enough for this whole thing to take place

Jesus willingly walked to where He knew He would be betrayed

AND he set this whole thing up for success.

Jesus told them this was coming... now they are seeing it play out right before their eyes...

Jesus walked the plan of God willingly...

PAUSE

We also see...

John 18:3-5 – The Bolstered Betrayal

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. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” ⁵ They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

Was this necessary for Judas?

- **Did he need this “band of soldiers?”**
 - **This could have been a large group**
 - **Cohort was the word for the soldiers –**
 - **1/10 of a Legion (6000)**
 - **Could mean any number – dozens...**
 - **Likely more than that, but not likely 600**
 - **With this were “officers from the chief priests”**
 - **The other gospels use the term “crowd” – Matthew says “great crowd”**
 - **Here John defines who that crowd was**
 - **Was this necessary?**

There are some things we see here –

- **They knew Jesus to be a legitimate threat**
- **They did not know what to expect**

- **Jesus was in total control**

We see the “show” of evil

- **All show no substance**
 - **Kinda like the Patriots :-0**

- This is just like the enemy to have all show – no real power

Matthew includes these words of Jesus here...

Matthew 26:53

Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?

What would motivate Judas to do this?

- Disappointment in Jesus?
- Trying to force Jesus' hand?
- Maybe his heart all along was divided?

It is not clear what would motivate Judas to betray Jesus like this, but we do know Judas is referred to as the Betrayer in all four Gospels. And... in John 17, Jesus refers to Judas as, "...the son of destruction."

This was all part of God's sovereign plan...

John continues with...

John 18:6-9 – The Sovereign Surrender

⁶ When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. 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.”⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.”

Jesus was surrendered to the sovereign plan of God – BUT understand, Jesus still walked in the power of God!

We see this with the evidence of His power demonstrated as the soldiers “drew back and fell...”

- **This definitely makes me chuckle... at a time that was not funny...**
 - **Jesus doesn't change the subject**
 - **Jesus does not “Flex” and call down angels to fight for him**
 - **Jesus says (in my mind), “Guys, get up and take me already.”**

Jesus could have, by His power changed this whole story...

Aren't you glad He didn't?

I am SO grateful He did not do what so many of us would have.

- **Jesus knew this was God's plan**
- **Jesus knew what was to come, and STILL willingly obeyed**
- **The plan of salvation was unfolding before their eyes... and no one knew it yet.**

- **Especially Peter – This is where we see...**

John 18:10-11 – The Pitiful Power-grab

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.) ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

John does not include it, but Jesus does heal Malchus' ear. Luke (Col. 4:14, “the beloved physician”) is the only one to include this detail 😊

**While we may chuckle at this, Peter was acting bravely...
He was GREATLY outnumbered!**

A miracle we do not often point out is that Peter was not killed right there on the spot!

Peter's willingness to fight was commendable, but there was a much greater power at work.

Jesus was about to, “*...drink the cup that the Father has given*”

What we see here in these 11 verses is NOT the way any of us would have written... unless they were true.

- My script would have been different
- My plan would not include the Messiah willingly surrender.

- My plan would not have been anywhere near as good as His.
- I would have been guilty of my own pitiful power-grab likely!

But His willingness to go through all that we will continue to cover in the next weeks is what leads to absolute world change.

And we are called to walk as Jesus did.

I wonder how that directs our battles today?

- What do we see today online?
- While I in no way condone any Superbowl Halftime show... the truth is, this is what the World produces.

As we expose truth, may it be empowered by His love and grace

As we “Stand firm” with our armor, may our weapon be that of the word of God, rightly handled and powerfully demonstrated by His Spirit.

I do not believe pacifism is the answer, but I do think we underestimate the power of God and His willingness to fight for us.

Here, in these verses as told through the words of John –

- Jesus intentionally goes to where He knows He will be betrayed

- **Jesus willingly surrenders to the plan of God**
- **Jesus does not exercise His authority, though it was scene in the response of the soldiers falling back with a word**
- **Jesus heals the only blood that was shed (Malchus' ear)**
- **Jesus preserves the ones who will carry our His mission**

The greatest story ever told...

**Is ours to experience
Is ours to tell**