

The Hour is in Motion

John 18:1-11

vs. 1, There was a garden

Garden imagery (Mary L. Coloe, Wisdom Commentary)

- John's word choice is intentional.
- John started his gospel with, "In the beginning...".
- John includes details in his storytelling of the crucifixion that causes the listener / reader to reflect.

19:18 There they crucified him and two others with him, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

The garden imagery continues

19:41 There was a garden in the place where he was crucified. A new tomb was in the garden; no one had yet been placed in it.

Genesis 2:9 The Lord God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the middle of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Remember: Wisdom has been a key aspect of John's story arc.

Judaism links Wisdom with Torah.

- Wisdom and Torah are both preexistent.
- Are related to God in a unique way.
- Played a significant role in creation
- Are eternal
- Are related to life, light, and salvation
- Both appear in the world among people
- Are associated with truth
- Are associated with glory

Craig S. Keener, *The Gospel of John: A Commentary & 2*, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012), 355.

Proverbs 3:17-19 Her ways are pleasant, and all her paths, peaceful. **18** She is a tree of life to those who embrace her, and those who hold on to her are happy. **19** The Lord founded the earth by wisdom and established the heavens by understanding.

What appears to be death will be transformed into a birth.

We will soon discover who it is that is standing at the foot of the cross.

19:26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son."

Imagery overlap

Genesis 3:1-6

vs. 6, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Genesis 3:20 The man named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all the living.

Mary, the mother of Jesus ->

John was making a point! He was also given the responsibility to care for Mary in Jesus' earthly absence.

vs. 2, Judas continues to be a warning to anyone who is paying attention.

Apostasy was a genuine threat to John's original audience and he wanted to make a big, giant point.

1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. However, they went out so that it might be made clear that none of them belongs to us.

vs. 3, Fear & Misunderstanding -> key motivators for the world

Contrast: Darkness is approaching the light of the world.

John 16:2 They will ban you from the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering service to God.

Another warning: The duplicity of the human heart is real. It is so easy to convince ourselves that we are right when in fact we are very, very wrong.

Humility - having an accurate, modest view of yourself, recognizing your strengths and weaknesses without arrogance, and valuing others' perspectives. This posture fosters personal growth, better relationship and openness to learning.

vs. 4-6, Jesus is in full control of the situation.

"Who is it that you're seeking?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they answered.

"I am he," Jesus told them.

Exodus 3:13-15 Then Moses asked God, "If I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what should I tell them?"

14 God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you."

15 God also said to Moses, "Say this to the Israelites: The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever; this is how I am to be remembered in every generation.

They stepped back and fell to the ground.

Jesus is declaring his divine identity.

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am."

John 10:33 "We aren't stoning you for a good work," the Jews answered, "but for blasphemy, because you—being a man—make yourself God."

vs. 8-9, Jesus is continuing to care for and protect the disciples.

vs. 10-11, Peter

- Faithful followers of Jesus also get it wrong.
- Peter is full of zeal. He knows Jesus.
- He feels inflated confidence (sword in hand and Jesus the Messiah by his side).
- This confidence will soon fade. Boldness will take a back seat to fear.

Question: Have you embraced Jesus as everlasting wisdom?

Ponder the truth of Proverbs 3:17-19. In Jesus there is peace, comfort, joy, and eternity life.

How have you let fear and misunderstanding cloud your thinking?

In what ways do you need to focus on humility?

Will Jesus be your ultimate guide?

*We use all types of assistants for life (maps, AI, translate, rotten tomatoes, yelp, reddit).

Do we trust the divinity and care of Jesus in our everyday lives?

How can this become a greater part of your everyday?