



**God's Glory in Betrayal and an Illegal Arrest  
Jesus is Always God and He is the One in Control of Events  
John 18:1-14**

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Since John 13, we have been sitting, eating, talking and walking with Jesus all in the same evening. Jesus goes to the cross in the morning and will be in a grave this time tomorrow. He knows this, His disciples do not.

Jesus is preparing the disciples for the next three days and the next 2000 years. Some of the things He has said have been amazing. Life changing even. And some of what He has said has been really hard to



hear. The disciples are still not empowered with the Holy Spirit, that doesn't happen until Pentecost, about 40 or so days yet in the future.

But they have already been briefed on how the Spirit changes everything.

Jesus ended the conversation by allowing the disciples to listen in as He prayed for Himself, for them and for us. The prayer, which we examined last time, reflected for us that Jesus is looking forward to the cross and what it is He will be achieving there. The redemption of mankind. He is also looking forward to returning home to the Father since He is not of this world. If we are believers in Christ, we aren't from around here either. Our real home is with Him in heaven.

That is why we shouldn't get invested in this world system or anything it has to offer. It all pales in the light of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 2:9

"But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—" (ESV)

We see things here on this planet that are amazing. The Grand Canyon, redwood forests, the Arabian Desert. But none of it comes close to what He has for us at home.

Jesus has completed His prayer to the Father, and they are all about to enter the Garden of Gethsemane. As we enter the garden with Him and the disciples, there are a few things we need to remember.

John wrote this book to show us that Jesus Christ is God. The whole intent of the book is pointed to that one goal. That is why there are some things he talks about in the book, and some things he doesn't.

As John takes us into the betrayal, the illegal arrest, the illegal trials and the politically motivated beatings, his goal for us, the reader, still has not changed. He wants us to know and see that in all Jesus goes through and deals with, Jesus is still God. We will even see that it is Jesus who is the one who is really in control of the events as they take place even to include His voluntary surrender of His life while hanging on the cross.

Satan and the fallen unseen realm think they are the ones in control now and are calling the shots. Their hubris is something that has never been seen before and it is that which will cause their own destruction.

You see, they don't have a clue about what they are really doing and how they are dooming themselves. They have devised an attack and battleplan on imperfect intelligence. They thought they understood what the scriptures say about the Messiah, they don't.

The skills being used by those wanting Jesus dead are seriously lacking. They believe they are being wise, not hardly.

Jesus has been egging them on for weeks leading to this triumph. They believe they are the ones who will triumph, but the reality is the reverse. All they know is that Jesus has been constantly and intentionally confronting them on their turf, Bashan, Dan and all of demon central. All of what Jesus did was calculated and deliberate. Jesus, who created Satan and his fallen ones, created them and knew all about them and how to get their goat. He is eternal, they are not.

As Jesus prepares to go to the cross, in the unseen realm, it is a full blown war that is going on.



For three years, Jesus had intentionally operated in the location that “was infamous with respect to the idolatrous worship of Samaria, the renegade northern kingdom of the ten tribes of Israel who forsook David’s dynasty after Solomon died. This confederacy and rival kingdom was set up by Jeroboam (1 Kgs 12:25–33). So the worship of other gods—gods besides Yahweh who were called demons (shedim)—was part of the identity of Bashan.” It was there Jesus freed the man possessed by thousands of demons. (Heiser 2015, 290)

As we have seen in John, when Jesus first shows up, it is John the Baptist who is the voice crying out in the wilderness. Jesus began the process of restoring the kingdom to planet earth at that time with His baptism and the beginning of His public ministry.

The fallen ones do not know, that with the death and resurrection of Jesus, it becomes irreversible. The goal is to reclaim the nations and the planet and reestablish Eden here on earth with God and His people all living together. For us today, we are living in a time dedicated to progressing and advancing God’s rule against intelligent evil and taking followers for Jesus literally from the gates of hell.

Matthew 16:17–18

“And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (ESV)

When Jesus said this, He and His disciples were in Caesarea Philippi at a site famous for the pagan worship of Pan and Zeus. As His church, we are daily engaged in actions against the enemy. Gates are defensive structures designed to keep enemy forces out. Jesus is showing us that as His followers, we are to be the ones on the offensive. This has nothing to do with Peter being made Pope.

Jesus begins at ground zero in the cosmic geography of both testaments to announce the great reversal. It is the gates of hell that are under assault—and they will not hold up against the Church. Hell will one day be Satan’s tomb. (Heiser 2015, 285)

And those fallen powers are enraged, they want to do away with Messiah, but this anger has been intentionally encouraged by Jesus because they don’t know what He does.

1 Corinthians 2:6–8

“Yet when I am among mature believers, I do speak with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God—his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began. But the rulers of this world have not understood it; if they had, they would not have crucified our glorious Lord.” (NLT)

The rulers of this world, the fallen members of the unseen realm did not have a clue that their own actions would seal their doom.

John 18:1–3

“When Jesus had spoken these words, He went away with His disciples across the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden which He entered with His disciples. Now Judas, who was betraying Him, also knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with His disciples. So Judas, having obtained the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.” (NASB 2020)

The city of Jerusalem is right in the heart of the Judean Mountain range and the ancient city of Jesus time sat on the crest of a ridge dividing between lowlands to the west and the desert to the east.



This is all located in the area of the Kidron Valley, which lies to the east of the Temple Mount. To the south and west is the Hinnom Valley, which is also the location used by those engaged in human sacrifice during the times of the Kings. Running right through the middle of the City of David is the Tyropoeon Valley. There on the western slope of the Mount of Olives is the Garden of Gethsemane.

Since the word Gethsemane means an olive press or oil press, the “place called Gethsemane” that Jesus went to was likely “an olive orchard on the Mount of Olives,” or put differently a garden of olive trees. (O'Donnell 2013, 794)

Jesus and all of His disciples, with the notable exception of Judas Iscariot, entered together. We know from what we read in Luke that once they arrived, Jesus engaged in prayer and His disciples, rather than pray with Him, fell asleep.

All we do know is that some time passed prior to the arrival of Judas and the force he oversaw.

How fearful are the members of the Sanhedrin? The conspirators have their traitor, and he has been paid already for his services. As Judas arrives, he was, present tense, in the process of betraying Jesus.

John 18:2–3

“Now Judas, who was betraying Him, also knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with His disciples. So Judas, having obtained the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.” (NASB 2020)

It appears that Jesus and the disciples would often go to Gethsemane in the evening and had possibly been doing so all Passover week. Judas used that knowledge to his benefit.

Remember that the leadership of the Temple had a cozy relationship with the Romans. They are now using that to their advantage.

Judas shows up with the Temple police. That was expected, but the Roman assist is specifically notated for us. He has been given a cohort of Roman soldiers to effect the arrest of Jesus. Judas and some of the Temple police show up with around 600 Roman soldiers.

How typical of the world. The world is fearful of Jesus and they many times imagine great capabilities on those who follow Jesus. The Temple leadership wanted this to happen with the least amount of fuss and to make sure that happened, they prepared for a small army to be guarding Jesus. Maybe they thought a riot would break out. But at the time-of-day Judas shows up, it is Jesus and 11 sleepy disciples and only a couple of them are packing.

When Judas shows up, it is a group of gentiles and Jews who are there to arrest Jesus. Judas had no authority at all over those with him, he was only the traitorous guide.

So here is the setting, it is a full moon, always is at Passover time. But they brought additional sources of light with them just in case Jesus tried to hide and they were all armed. It is a combined force of Jews and Gentiles performing the arrest, in other words, the world.

The Romans were used to exercising noise discipline while armed so they were quiet, but the Temple police had no such training or knowledge. It may have sounded like a small group, but when they entered the Garden, it was a well-armed and enabled entourage that arrived with Judas.

Jesus, per our text here in John, sees this and takes full command of the entire situation. He is trying to protect His disciples.



From a legal perspective for that time, doing this arrest, at night, is illegal. When I was in the Air Force, that was the one thing we always were aware of, the procedures we must follow when apprehending someone in order to make sure that it is a legal and lawful apprehension. We were always very careful to make sure we did nothing to negatively impact the rights of the one we were picking up. We would identify ourselves, state the basis we were using to make the apprehension, in other words, told them why we were doing this, and then made sure we provided them a complete listing of their rights asking if they understood.

We were not limited by time of day, but we always made certain that a JAG attorney was available if the accused wanted legal representation. Here in John, we do not see any of that.

Do not assume that the Romans were barbarians and did what they wanted. They were somewhat aware of the law and what they could and could not do. For Roman officers to agree to this, I have to wonder if there were a few palms greased with Temple funds. You see, there are going to be three errors committed in the arrest and the Roman leadership would have already known it too.

A Roman cohort consisted of anywhere between three hundred to six hundred men. Before the Romans could arrest a man, a formal charge was needed. Only after a charge was brought before the Roman governor could a Roman cohort be released for the purpose of making an arrest. Earlier in the evening Judas had come before Pilate and had brought a charge against Yeshua. Soldiers were then given to Judas by Pilate so that the arrest could be made. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 7)

Here three separate errors were committed: (1) the arrest was by night, (2) the arrest was achieved through the agency of a traitor and informer, and (3) the arrest was without the necessary basis of a specific and formal accusation of wrongdoing later to be presented to the court. (Boice 2005, 1398)

This was to be a capital case. We know that because of previous statements made by the Sanhedrin. In the post raising of Lazarus from the dead emergency meeting, we see this.

John 11:49–50

“But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, nor are you taking into account that it is in your best interest that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish instead.” (NASB 2020)

The plan was to kill Jesus. Anyone else would simply be collateral damage, Jesus and His death was their goal. Anyone or anything that would help them achieve that goal was ok. I would not be surprised that conversations had already taken place with the Romans about needing a few resources to make this happen with the least amount of muss or fuss. No riots on my watch would be the goal.

These three errors in a capital case should have meant immediate acquittal and release. But this is the beginning of a long list of illegal actions undertaken by the Sanhedrin and the Romans in order to kill Jesus and make it all look legal. It was an established rule you did no proceedings in a capital case at night.

One would think that this type of political action was a thing of the past, but we are still seeing it take place here in the United States right now. But we are enlightened, and we know better, no not really.

Jeremiah nailed it.

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?” (NKJV)



When you begin to lie to yourself, and believe those lies, like the Sanhedrin was doing, then who knows what someone is capable of. They were blinded by their sin.

1 John 1:8

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” (NKJV)

Jesus takes command of situation.

John 18:4–6

“Jesus therefore, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, came out into the open and said to them, “Whom are you seeking?” They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He said to them, “I am He.” And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. Now then, when He said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground.” (NASB 2020)

John says nothing about Judas kissing Jesus.

Jesus steps out in front of the group and asks who it is there are looking for? Jesus looks just like anyone else; Isaiah told us there would be nothing special about His appearance (Isaiah 53:2).

We see that here as He takes command and asks who. When told who, Jesus simply said two words to them. The same two words told to Moses in the burning bush. I am.

In the Greek the words are simply, egó eimi, I am. When Jesus states this, He is stating a fact that He is the I am. He is God. And all who showed up to take Him, respond the same. They all fall to the ground before the mighty name of God. They had no choice, He simply said who He is and they had no choice but to fall to the ground at the phrase, “I am.” Jesus is God.

This will not be the last time that unbelievers will fall at the name of Jesus.

Philippians 2:8–11

“He humbled himself, by becoming obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross! As a result God highly exalted him and gave him the name, that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.” (NET 2nd ed.)

John repeats this phrase three times. Jesus is the I am. For the Romans, this is not what they expected to be dealing with.

They thought they would be dealing with a popular preacher who would be fleeing from them, instead, He meets them fully in command of the situation. And He comes out with the commanding words of deity. Jesus is completely fearless. He is unarmed and confronting the Roman army, but He is God and commands more forces than they ever even considered existing. There is no doubting what He just said, and they all fall to the ground.

These were unbelievers confronting the God of the universe who has just stated to them who He is doing so in complete command. And they fall to the ground. Is this Biblical evidence for being slain in the Spirit? Not really, it is Biblical evidence for the holiness and power of the name and the impact it has on those who do not know who Jesus is. Now, they all know.

It is clear, Jesus is allowing Himself to be arrested, they are unable to physically respond beyond falling to the ground in front of God.



Here is Jesus, standing, in full command of the situation and the Romans and Temple police, including Judas, laying on the ground.

John 18:7–9

“He then asked them again, “Whom are you seeking?” And they said, “Jesus the Nazarene.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I am He; so if you are seeking Me, let these men go on their way.” This took place so that the word which He spoke would be fulfilled: “Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one.”” (NASB 2020)

While they are either still on the ground, or in the process of getting up, He asks them again who they are looking for, basically repeating everything that has already been said. There is another reason why He goes through this a second time, He is in control, and He wants the attention on Him and away from His disciples. Jesus actually orders those who are doing the arrest to leave the disciples out of this.

He had prayed for them earlier and He is actively protecting them just as He protects us as well. I wonder how many times Jesus has had to tell others on our behalf, let them alone? Then again, how many of us would be like Peter?

Peter loves the Lord, He has just witnessed this interchange and should know that God is in the house and has everything under control. No, not Peter. He has testosterone squirting out of his ears by now. Let the adrenaline flow. Peter is packing and seeing what is taking place, out comes the sword.

600 professional Roman soldiers, all getting up from the ground, yes, but they are all trained killers. Peter isn't. It seems that he never made it to sword range day...ever. He tries to take off someone's head and misses only getting their ear.

John 18:10–11

“Then Simon Peter, since he had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter, “Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, am I not to drink it?”” (NASB 2020)

We know from elsewhere in the scriptures that Jesus reattaches the ear for Malchus. We are not told that here. We see that Jesus is still fully in command.

Has there been any move from the Romans? No. Why not? Peter attacked a slave of the high priest, not a Roman. He attacked a man who probably was unarmed and in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Let's look at this from Peter's perspective. He had been asleep and is awakened by the sound of 600 plus bodies falling to the ground. So much for noise discipline now. In His half-awake state, he goes for the first available target, probably with no thought at all trying to cut off a head and getting, an ear. Then he watches Jesus perform His last miracle, ensuring that there would only be three crosses and not four. Zeal, without knowledge can be dangerous. Jesus was going to the cross, Peter though, in his zeal, expressed something we all do every now and then, he knew better than God and would try and help God out.

D. L Moody put it this way. “One man may have “zeal without knowledge,” while another may have knowledge without zeal. If I could have only the one, I believe I should choose the first; but, with an open Bible, no one need be without knowledge of God's will and purpose...” (Moody 1881, 5)

For the Christian, knowledge, without zeal = proud Christians. Look at all that I know, great, but what have you done with it lately. The Laodicean church is this. Dead, dead, dead.



You want zeal without knowledge, we have lots of examples these days. Today we call them fans. They may not know anything at all about the capabilities of the team, but they show up for the games. I had season tickets to Texas Tech football, so what they went 1-11 that year. Zeal, without knowledge can make us seem rather more like a fanatic than someone making wise decision based on facts. In the Bible, we have an example of that.

1 Kings 18:26–29

“They took the bull that was given to them, prepared it and called on the name of Ba'al from morning till noon—“Ba'al! Answer us!” But no voice was heard; and no one answered, as they jumped around on the altar they had made. Around noon Eliyahu began ridiculing them: “Shout louder! After all, he's a god, isn't he? Maybe he's daydreaming, or he's on the potty, or he's away on a trip. Maybe he's asleep, and you have to wake him up.” So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and knives, as their custom was, until blood gushed out all over them. By now it was afternoon, and they went on ranting and raving until it was time for the evening offering. But no voice came, no one answered, no one paid any attention.” (CJB)

Here at Calvary, we want to balance between the two ends. We indeed want the zeal. We long to be empowered with the Holy Spirit for service and step out in faith for Him every single day. But we want to do so in the knowledge of the word.

That keeps us from going too far into some of the things that scare people off, being Spirit filled will make you weird. No, it won't, but again balance.

As Peter lashes out with his sword, there is no balance there at all, just action. Just Peter trying to help God who needs no help.

Spiritual battles can only be fought with spiritual means.

We must examine ourselves as we look at Peter. If I had a sword, would I have trusted Jesus or would I have tried to remove heads.

Zeal without knowledge is a dangerous thing. It is an army without a general, a ship without a rudder. Multitudes have done great harm in the kingdom of God with zeal for the honour of Christ, but zeal that refused direction. (Fortner 2012, 409)

Jesus defuses the situation by His actions and His words. Meanwhile, Peter probably has more than a few Roman soldiers standing around him ready to turn him into bits and pieces.

We must remember this as we begin to see increasing persecution in the world around us and in this country. It is now more important than ever to be zealous for the Lord, but to do so in the full knowledge of what His word says. Deception is strong in the marketplace. I want all of us to know the truth so when we hear deception, and we will, we know that it is deception.

As Peter puts away his sword, Jesus once again teaches him. Jesus must suffer and die on the cross doing so to redeem all of mankind, including Peter. He is more than willing to do this.

John 18:12–14

“So the Roman cohort, the commander, and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him, and brought Him to Annas first; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was in their best interest for one man to die in behalf of the people.” (NASB 2020)





Thanks to Peter, now the Romans are calling the shots. It is the Roman commander who arrests Jesus and binds Him. With multiple Roman soldiers keeping a close eye on Peter. However, the Jewish Temple police are the ones who are involved in the guidance of these actions since the first place they take Jesus to is for an illegal preliminary hearing with Annas.

As we move through this, we will discover that twenty-two laws of the Sanhedrin were broken in the trials of Jesus. We have just been through the 3 times illegal arrest. And with a preliminary hearing taking place almost immediately and at night.

According to Exodus 23:8, there was to be no arrest by ecclesiastical authorities that was effected by a bribe.

There were to be no steps of criminal proceedings after sunset. Judges and Sanhedrin members could not participate in the arrest. There were to be no trials before the morning sacrifice. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 5)

Under Jewish law, a prisoner could not be sentenced on the same day of the trial, thus the preliminary hearing to “check a square” that this began the previous day, very late, but remember, it is all about looking good for the Temple leadership.

As we look at these details, the one thing we must remember, He did all of this and suffered at all, for us.

The Sanhedrin wants Jesus dead, sooner rather than later and they are trying to orchestrate all of this to take place before Jerusalem wakes up.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

### **ABC’s of Salvation**

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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