

The Willing Sacrifice
Study Outline – Grace Bible Chapel
John’s Gospel Study - John 18:1-11
Sunday –December 11th, 2011

Context: Christ now purposely moves to the place where He will be betrayed by Judas. John stated at the beginning of his gospel that “we beheld His glory.” Here is another example of the beholding of the glory of Christ. He is determined and dedicated to completing His mission no matter how personally detestable and difficult. His majesty is seen as He unhesitatingly moves to this rendezvous.

The reader must be reminded that contrary to modern twisted ideas that Christ was an unwitting and unwilling victim, nothing could be further from the truth. In John 12:27 He had stated “for this purpose I came to this hour.” In John 10:17-18 He had declared “I lay down my life so that I may take it again.” Our Lord was always in absolute perfect control over the events of His life, and all that He did ultimately pointed toward His goal of dying on the cross in order to be obedient to the Father, and to provide salvation to men whom the Father chose. Very important in this section is to see His sovereign glory in the midst of shameful actions of men toward Him. He moves majestically above the circumstances offering decisive proof of His glory.

It is also convicting that even in the process of willingly giving Himself, that we see men thinking they are and attempting to thwart the will of God, and yet actually carrying out His plan (Acts 2:23). The actions of the Roman cohort (likely at least 400 soldiers), and the action of Peter cutting off the ear of Malchus, show the foolish nature of man’s effort to take matters to form their own destiny. At the same time Christ demonstrates who is really in control by His spoken power over the soldiers, His unwavering courage, His care of His eleven, and His submission to the Father. The manner of His movement to the cross should stir the desire to give thanks, and worship Him.

Broad outline of the Gospel of John (underlined is the immediate context).

VII. The Performance of Christ followed by irrational rejection (6:1-12:50)

VIII. The Personal Ministry of Christ to His own (13:1-17:26)

IX. The Passion of Christ (18:1-19:30)

A. The Commitment to be sacrificed (18:1-19:15)

1. Settled journey to betrayal (18:1-11)

Key Words (18: 1-11)

- Judas (3 times)
- seek (3 times)
- betraying (2 times)
- forth (2 times)
- sword (2 times)

Introduction:

1. Settled journey to betrayal (18:1-11)

a. Supreme courage (18:1-4a)

b. Stunning power (18:4b-6)

c. Steadfast care (18:7-9)

d. Submissive obedience (18:10-11)

Conclusion: