

Exegetical Notes, John 18:1-11

**“Arrested”**

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**John 18:1-11**

**Verse 1**

***When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.***

- After Jesus had finished the “Last Discourse” (John 14-16) and prayed the “High Priestly Prayer” (John 17) He and his disciples, except Judas who had already gone to betray Jesus, left the room where they had eaten “The Last Supper” and crossed the Kidron Valley to the Mount of Olives. The Kidron was a creek during the wet season but was probably dry at that time of year. The Mount of Olives is an extremely important place in the Christian story (See Eze 11:23; Zep 1:5; Zec 14:4; Mt 24:3; Mk 11:1; Lk 19:29; Ac 1:12, 21:38)

**Verses 2-3**

***Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup> So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.***

- See John 13:18-30. After Jesus had revealed to Judas, one of the twelve, that he knew Judas was the one who would betray him, Judas left to go bring those who would arrest Jesus to the place where Jesus was. Judas knew that Jesus would go out to the Mount of Olives because that was what Jesus most frequently did after supper in Jerusalem. So he knew where to find Jesus.
- Judas brought with him a detachment delegated by the high priest to arrest Jesus. The Greek word translated detachment of soldiers is the word often translated “cohort.” A “cohort” was a detachment of 300 to 600 soldiers.

## Verses 4-9

***Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"***

<sup>5</sup> ***"Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.***

***"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)***

<sup>6</sup> ***When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.***

<sup>7</sup> ***Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?"***

***"Jesus of Nazareth," they said.***

<sup>8</sup> ***Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go." <sup>9</sup> This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."***

- Jesus knew exactly what was going to unfold that night. So he did what was expected of him to fulfill the plan of God. He asked the soldiers who they came to arrest. He asked them who they sought twice. When he first asked them, they fell back from him. This shows that they were powerless to take him except that it was willed by the Father.
- Jesus surrendered to them asking them not to harm his followers. See John 17:12.

## Verses 10-11

***Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)***

<sup>11</sup> ***Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"***

- To defend Jesus, Peter drew a sword, a kind of dagger, and cut off the ear of one of those sent to arrest Jesus.
- Jesus commanded Peter to put his sword away. He said that he must do as God desired him to do and not resist God's plan.

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