

The Word

one to one

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Episode 36

JOHN 11	Life (Lazarus is raised by Jesus)
JOHN 12	Death (Jesus predicts His death)
JOHN 13 – 17	Life for His disciples (in the time between Jesus' departure and His return)
JOHN 18 – 19	Death (Jesus' crucifixion)
JOHN 20	Life (Jesus is risen)

Betrayal and arrest

JOHN 18:1-27

*In the previous episode:
Jesus draws His
followers into unity
with His Father.*

*In this episode:
A death in our place.*

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.

² Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.

³ 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.

According to plan

As Jesus' prayer finishes, we return to the themes of life and death we looked at in chapters 11 and 12:

- Chapters 18 and 19 will show Jesus' death in our place.
- Chapter 20 will show the eternal life His death secures.

Who comes to arrest Jesus?

- It's a massive show of force. Judas comes with an entire detachment of armed soldiers, plus the officials of the religious leaders, lighting up the night with torches and lanterns. **(v. 3)**

Kidron Valley: a valley running along the east side of Jerusalem, separating the city wall from the Mount of Olives. You can still visit this valley and the garden (called Gethsemane) today.

⁴ Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, ‘Who is it you want?’

⁵ ‘Jesus of Nazareth,’ they replied. ‘I am he,’ Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)

⁶ When Jesus said, ‘I am he,’ they drew back and fell to the ground.

But who is in control?

- Jesus. He knows what is going to happen. (v. 4)
- He is the one who goes out to His accusers and starts asking all the questions.
- Again, Jesus identifies Himself with all the authority of the name of God ('I AM'). (v. 5)

Imagine you're one of the officials.

You turn up with a band of soldiers, armed to the teeth, ready to arrest just one unarmed man.

He simply speaks, and you're blown off your feet! (v. 6)

Jesus' voice has total authority.

⁷ Again he asked them,
‘Who is it you want?’



‘Jesus of Nazareth,’ they said.

⁸ Jesus answered, ‘I told
you that I am he. If you
are looking for me, then
let these men go.’

⁹ This happened so that the
words he had spoken would
be fulfilled: ‘I have not lost
one of those you gave me.’



As His accusers pick themselves up, Jesus does not try to escape. He just calmly waits.

How does Jesus show His control?

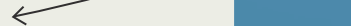
- Again, He leads the conversation. **(v. 7)**
- He gives instructions, so that His disciples might be set free. **(v. 8)**

Why does Jesus command this?

- It fulfils the words of His prayer to the Father in 17:12, *'None has been lost..'*

¹⁰ 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.)

¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, 'Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?'



The servant's name was Malchus: what a night for Malchus! By naming him, it is as if John is saying, 'Ask him, or at least his relatives, to confirm what has been written!'

In front of all those armed soldiers, Peter's attempt at a rescue is utterly crazy. (v. 10)

But why does Jesus stop him?

- Jesus knows how this must end. He must die and *'drink the cup the Father has given.'* (v. 11)

What does Jesus mean by *'the cup'*?

- In the Old Testament book of Isaiah, the cup is God's wrath (anger), the judgement the people deserve.

'See, I have taken out of your hand the cup that made you stagger; from that cup, the goblet of my wrath, you will never drink again.' (Isaiah 51:22)

Salvation comes through the Messiah, Jesus. He takes and drinks the cup of God's anger that we deserve as He dies for us on the cross.