

# The Gospel of John

Chapter 18, Verses 1-6

# Review

- **General Introduction**

- *one of the **four gospels**, each of which is a biography of Jesus and an historical narrative of his life*
- one of the **five Johannine books**, all of which are among the last books in the Bible to have been written
- written in Greek, primarily to those who already believed in Christ, including **both Jews and Gentiles**

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- **Basic Structure**
  - *Prolog* – First 18 verses of Chapter 1
  - *Jesus' Public Ministry* – Until the end of Chapter 12
  - *Private Time With His Disciples* – Chapters 13-17
  - *Trial, Death, and Resurrection* – Chapters 18, 19, 20
  - *Epilog (resurrection appearances in Galilee)* – Chapter 21

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# John 18:1-6

**18:1** イエスはこれらのことを語り終えて、弟子たちと一緒にケデロンの谷の向こうへ行かれた。そこには園があつて、イエスは弟子たちと一緒にその中にはいられた。

**18:2** イエスを裏切ったユダは、その所をよく知っていた。イエスと弟子たちとがたびたびそこで集まったことがあるからである。

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**18:3** さてユダは、一隊の兵卒と祭司長やパリサイ人たちの送った下役どもを引き連れ、たいまつやあかりや武器を持って、そこへやってきた。

**18:4** しかしイエスは、自分の身に起ろうとすることをことごとく承知しておられ、進み出て彼らに言われた、「だれを捜しているのか」。

**18:5** 彼らは「ナザレのイエスを」と答えた。イエスは彼らに言われた、「わたしが、それである」。イエスを裏切ったユダも、彼らと一緒に立っていた。

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**18:6** イエスが彼らに「わたしが、それである」と言われたとき、彼らはうしろに引きさがって地に倒れた。

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<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.

<sup>2</sup> Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples.

<sup>3</sup> So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.



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<sup>4</sup> Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"

<sup>5</sup> They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

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- Probably this is the same place which Mark and Matthew remember as Gethsemane, and which Luke locates on the Mount of Olives.
- That is, in fact, across the Kidron Valley, east of Jerusalem

# Comment

- It is worth noticing that among the four gospels, only John:
  - adds the detail about crossing the Kidron Valley
  - omits an account of Jesus' agony in the Garden
- This and other differences suggest that John is writing later than and with an awareness of the other gospels, and that he feels free to emphasize different things.



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- That one of Jesus' disciples, Judas, would betray him had long been known to Jesus, and to John's readers (6:71), and more recently had been revealed to the beloved disciple (13:26).

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**Now Judas, who betrayed him,** also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples.

- Judas has only recently left the room, with instructions from Jesus to do quickly that which he was going to do. (13:27)

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- Now Jesus and his disciples leave the room and move to a secluded place outside the city where Judas could easily find them and where they could easily be apprehended.
- And we remember it was night. (13:30)

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- It may also suggest that the night was cloudy, because the moon would have been full on the eve of the Passover.

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- Their choice of time and place (i.e. at night in the country) and the fact that they brought weapons suggests that they were afraid of a violent uprising.

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- What is very surprising (and remembered only by John) was the presence of a large number of Roman soldiers.

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So Judas, **having procured** a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

- How Judas might have “procured” any of these things is an interesting question --- but I note that he is possessed by Satan and released from the constraint of the Son of God (13:27), and he has the moneybag (13:29)

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- Of course he does know that it leads to the cross.

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- Indeed for whom could they possibly be looking? They are practically an army or “riot squad” walking around out on the mountainside at night.

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- The Roman soldiers and temple guards seemingly knew the name of the one they were looking.

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- But seemingly they did not know what he looked like, or what kind of entourage to expect.
- In view of their preparation to meet him, and how they reacted to his self identification, I think they were afraid.



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- This statement is very much the way that God represents himself in the Greek Old Testament.
- And this is how men typically react when God reveals himself.

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- And they must have heard stories even before that!