

## In the Garden of Surrender

John 18:1-11

Sunday, February 17, 2019 am

In chapter 18 of John we have concluded the Upper Room discourse which began in John 13 and was climaxed with the wonderful prayer of Jesus in chapter 17. In this chapter He is arrested and taken before the high priest. In the other three gospels the humanity of Christ is emphasized. In John's gospel the emphasis is upon the deity of Christ – He is the God-man in this gospel and the emphasis is upon His glory. In His arrest, His death and His resurrection we will see His glory. On this last night, He left the walled city of Jerusalem to go to the place called the Garden of Gethsemane – going there to give His enemies an opportunity to take Him – John doesn't include the agony in the garden – rather he speaks of the glory. If Jesus had not yielded Himself, all the weapons those men had, would have been absolutely useless and worthless. They called Him “Jesus of Nazareth” – they refused to call Him the Christ – they would not acknowledge Him as the Savior, the Christ, the Son of the living God.

The Garden of Gethsemane is at the foot of the Mount of Olives near the Kidron Brook – it is not far from the Sheep Gate that is so familiar in scripture passages – it is still there today to provide a physical reminder of this scene – we are told that some of the trees can be dated back to the time of Christ.

Why is this special place so well preserved despite 2000 years of wars and hostility – it provides four valuable truths that apply to our lives today – read John 18:1-11.

**I. Truth Number 1: There is a Time and Place When Everyone Faces the Issue of Betrayal**

- a. It's possible for us to betray someone or be betrayed by someone else.
- b. We will take a look at Judas, the betrayer in verse 2.
- c. Judas was not monster – but he took the decision of his relationship with Jesus too lightly.
- d. There was more at stake here – when the results were out of control, Judas was frantic – Matthew 27:3-5.
- e. Judas had associated himself with the wrong crowd and tragedy was the result – we too often don't realize the consequences of sin and we have the tendency to condemn the sins of others and justify our own.
- f. This can happen to any of us – the process is the same when we underestimate what is at stake.
- g. The results are the same – great tragedy and heartache.
- h. There will be a time and place for each of us to evaluate your relationship with Christ – where does your relationship with Him stand today.

**II. Truth Number 2: In the Garden Jesus Demonstrated How Much He Cared**

- a. Do we realize today just how much Jesus loves us and what He did to show His love for us?
- b. Jesus intervened for the freedom of all who believe in Him – John 18:4-9.
- c. Jesus deliberately chose to pay the price of redemption – Luke 22:42-44.
- d. Jesus chose to physically lay down His life on the line.



- e. Another demonstration of His caring concern is found in John 28:10-11.
- f. In Luke 22:51 we read that Jesus healed the man's ear – His enemy.
- g. There is no clearer example of caring love than this.
- h. In the garden Jesus reveals how much He loves each one of us.

### **III. Truth Number 3: The Garden Was a Place of Renewal for the Disciples**

- a. The Bible speaks of being renewed:
  - i. Psalm 51:10
  - ii. II Corinthians 4:16
  - iii. Ephesians 4:23
  - iv. Romans 12:1-2
- b. According to John 18:2, Jesus often went to the garden with His disciples and they learned a lot from Him as He taught in the Temple, synagogues and the marketplaces.
- c. Their greater lessons may have been learned in the privacy of the garden and the seclusion of the desert.
- d. We need a quiet place where Jesus can reveal things to us that we cannot hear in a crowd.
- e. This private spot will become our place of renewal.
- f. Either you will find a place of refreshment or you will burn out.
- g. Illustration: Even the strongest of metals must be taken off the grinding stone at some point or it will lose its strength.

**IV. Truth Number 4: Jesus Knew That Some Would Respond to the Invitation and Others Would Coldly Walk Away**

- a. This is more clearly described in Luke 22:40-44.
- b. For the sake of those who would respond, Jesus surrendered everything – we must be willing to do the same to Him.
- c. You will all respond to the invitation this morning – one way or the other – do you want God to change your heart.

Each one of us needs a trip to the “garden of surrender.” – we must be sure that our garden experience is not one of betrayal – when we care enough to respond to what Jesus did for us, something special happens – the garden of our hearts becomes a place of sweet communion with Him.