

The Sovereign Surrender

John 18:3-13

God arrested! The Son of God taken away, bound as a criminal from a prayer garden. They came into that place of solemn surrender led by one of the Twelve. Treachery and deceit filled the heart and mind of Judas. Luke records for us, "Then entered Satan into Judas," Satan was the driving force behind Judas' wicked deed.

And yet we know Satan is just a pawn in the hand of God. God determines how far Satan can go. The Bible warns us that, "Satan is a roaring lion, walking about seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8) Spurgeon once preached upon this passage, and he said, "Satan is a lion indeed, but the length of his chain God determines."

- **Jesus is Sovereign in His knowledge. The term we use is "omniscient," all-knowing. There are no limits to His knowledge: past, present, or future.**

In John 18:4, John clearly indicates Jesus' full knowledge of all that was about to unfold. Nothing ever takes God by surprise!

- **Jesus is Sovereign in His power. The term we use is the term, "omnipotent," all-powerful. There is no limit to the power of God!**

One of the ways God reveals to us that He is almighty, that His power is unlimited and irresistible, is by giving Himself many names. He is the Lord of lords and King of kings, the Lord God omnipotent, Jehovah, the only Potentate, Lord of Hosts, the Almighty.

In John 18:6, John records for us an example of Jesus' omnipotence. Jesus is the "I AM." John has gone to great detail to remind his readers of this reality, and now he records Jesus again speaking the words, "I AM," and the power He displayed. Jesus spoke with all authority; He spoke the world into being!

- **Jesus is fully surrendered to His mission. Peter seeks to defend the Lord, a noble, yet foolish act. (We will unpack Peter's garden experience next week.)**

Jesus rebukes Peter, heals Malchus, and then makes an incredibly significant statement, "The cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?"

Clearly Jesus views the impending arrest, mocking, beatings, scourging, crucifixion, and death as coming from the hand of His Father! Soldiers, rulers, chief priests, Pharisees, wicked men, and crowds crying out "crucify Him;" all these were not the ultimate reason for Christ's death.

The term "the cup" is an especially important term. It carries us back to the Old Testament and is an expression of "God's wrath." (Psalm 11:6; 75:8; Isaiah 51:17; Jeremiah 25:15)

Jesus uses it repeatedly, (Matt. 20:22; 26:39 and John 18:11) and it has a future usage (Revelation 14:10 and 16:19).

Jesus, the Sovereign Lord, surrendered in the garden, not to wicked soldiers but to the Father. The agonies that are incomprehensible are the agonies of "drinking the cup of God's wrath" against sin!

Other men have been tortured, beaten, mocked, and killed. But no one knows the full weight of God's wrath against sin but Jesus, the One that drank that bitter cup!

Application: Take sin seriously! It is no joking matter.

Appreciate the surrender of our Sovereign Lord! He did so to accomplish our redemption.

Share the "good news" with everyone! Jesus still saves sinners!