

## Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting January 5, 2022

John 18: 1 - 6

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples. **2** And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples. **3** Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. **4** Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? **5** They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. **6** As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

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As we began our study tonight, Pastor Tom asked this question for everyone to think about:

*What is in your life right now that gives you the most anxiety?*

- *Covid*
- *Health concerns of loved ones*
- *Addiction issues of loved ones*

He reviewed briefly then that we have moved from Chapter 17 (Jesus' long prayer for believers) to the fruition/completion of our salvation by Jesus Christ now in Chapter 18. This salvation plan has been with us throughout the entire Bible and all 4 Gospels record the events, just from different perspectives. For references see these verses

Matthew 26: 36

Mark 14:32 - 42

Luke 22:39 - 46

## **Verse 1**

*When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.*

\*Here in John it is easy to overlook that the scene is in a garden. Pastor Tom pointed out that we first hear of the salvation plan back in Genesis 3 *in a garden*. Now the actual action of the plan is playing out *in a garden*.

\*Without the cross and resurrection we would have no hope. Jesus would only be a miracle worker. Now we have hope and redemption. Before the very foundation of the world the salvation plan was designed by God. Now it's happening!

## **Verse 2**

*And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.*

\*Because Jesus had often visited this Garden, Judas was privy to know where He would be.

Pastor Tom asks if any of us have gotten discouraged in our walk with the Lord? It is during those times that the Holy Spirit will take over and show us some sign of encouragement. Pastor recalled the day of the New Year's Eve service as one such example. He started the day doing a funeral where an attendee got sick and there was a lot of technical difficulties. But then in the evening was the New Year's Eve service with breaking of bread together, laughter, tears, and prayers. The church came together in unity. God did something meaningful to encourage folks that night. It was refreshing to watch the manger burn...individual prayer slips burned very slowly, as if God was taking His time to read each one Himself.

### **Verse 3**

*Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.*

\*Judas had brought along a cohort of up to 600 soldiers sent by the religious community to incite a riot with torches and weapons.

\*Jesus was fully aware that all these events were going to happen and yet He went on with the plan. Nothing surprises Jesus. We can ponder this in these times we are living in...times that seem surprising (shocking) to us but Jesus knows about it all!

### **Verse 4 and 5**

*Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?*

*They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.*

\*Jesus asks the soldiers who they are looking for. Maybe to hold them accountable for their actions? But when they tell Him they are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, He tells them that's who He is. In other accounts, This is when Judas kisses Jesus as the signal to the soldiers.

### **Verse 6**

*As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.*

\*When Jesus speaks the WORD, the 600 trained, professional soldiers all fall down. There is power in the WORD of God!

\*But Jesus was committed to His Father in the Garden, to carry out the salvation plan foretold in another garden years and years before.

This was the plan to save all of us through Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection. Amen!

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May the Lord watch between me and thee

While we are absent one from the other.

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