

“A Willing Surrender Of Love!”

John 18:1-13

#3 Important Statements Are Made By Jesus During His Arrest In The Garden Of Gethsemane That Night Before The Passover Celebration

This Includes 1st the 2x “I AM” statements, which is the 20th of 21x Jesus declares Himself to be God!

- 1) **“I AM He!”** (Doublet) Verses 5b & 8a
- 2) **“Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way!”** Verse 8b
- 3) **“Shall I not Drink the Cup, which My Father has given Me?”** Verse 11b

Location

Verse 1: When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His Disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His Disciples entered.

This passage gives us a look at the timeline and differing locations of the night Jesus was betrayed. Jesus and the disciples have left the upper room and headed to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Context

Verses 2 – 3: And Judas (Iscariot), who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His Disciples. Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the Chief Priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

These verses tells us that all the disciples knew of the Garden of Gethsemane including Judas Iscariot. It also tells us what Judas was planning with the Chief Priest and the Temple Guards.

Jesus Begins His Questioning

Verse 4: Jesus, therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward, and said to them, **“Whom are you seeking?”**

Nothing takes God by surprise He is Omniscient, knowing everything! It was for this very moment that Jesus was willing to come to earth and be born among us by the Will of the Father! But Jesus also speaks with Divine Authority, which will be displayed in the next exchange!

1st of 3 Important Statements Of Jesus On The Night He Was Betrayed

Jesus’ Divine Authority & Presence Revealed

Verses 5 – 6: They answered Him, **“Jesus of Nazareth.”** Jesus said to them, **“I AM He.”** And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. Now when He said to them, **“I AM He,”** they drew back and fell to the ground.

Notice that at the first mention of the phrase “I AM He!” the Roman Soldiers and Jewish Temple Guards are afraid of Him and His ability to perform miraculous signs and wonders that many of them associated with demonic supernatural abilities and forces!

Therefore, in response to Jesus self-identifying statement they retreat and fall down to protect themselves from His mighty power because He acted in the authority and power of God!

Ironically this is reminiscent of the prediction that when Jesus Christ returns again to earth the Bible says He will judge all people and all of us will be forced to give Him glory and honor, willingly by those who chose to worship Him here and now and unwillingly by those who chose to reject Him.

“Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated Him to the place of highest honor and gave Him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!”

Philippians 4:6-11 (NASB)

Jesus Continues His Questioning

Verse 7: Then He asked them again, “*Whom are you seeking?*” And they said, “*Jesus of Nazareth.*”

Jesus repeats his questioning of the mob.

2nd of 3 Important Statements Of Jesus On The Night He Was Betrayed

Jesus Repeats His Self-Identity With God & Then Fulfills Prophecy In His 2nd Statement

Verses 8 – 9: Jesus answered, “*I have told you that I AM He! Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,*” that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, “*Of those Whom You gave Me I have lost none.*”

He had just prayed and stated that He had not lost anyone the Father had given Him while He was on earth!

Jesus Says This To Fulfill His Own Prophetic Words Spoken In His Final Prayer!

“While I was with them, I kept them in Your Name which You have given Me; & I guarded them & not one of them perished but the Son Of Perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”

John 17:12 (NKJV)

He also said it to physically save His disciples from persecution and death so that later after He leaves the earth to return to heaven they will be able to fulfill their mission to preach His Name, testify to His Words, Works, and Will in this world to others who have not yet heard the Good News that God loves them, forgives them, desires to bless them and wants to have an eternal relationship with them in His presence!

This statement is effective as it is spoken with the Divine Authority of God. The mob chose only to arrest Him which was their primary mission given to them by the Jewish Religious Leaders in the Sanhedrin and they let the others go. This is especially true of Peter in light of his attack with his short sword on the High Priest's servant.

Our Reaction – Our Will

Verse 10: Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the High Priest's Servant, and cut off his right ear. The Servant's name was Malchus.

Peter responds like most of us, in rebellion, in fighting back right now!

3rd of 3 Important Statements Of Jesus On The Night He Was Betrayed

Jesus' Reaction – God's Will

Verse 11: So, Jesus said to Peter, “*Put your sword into the sheath.*

Shall I not Drink the Cup which My Father has given Me?”

Jesus responds in Obedience to God His Father's Will!

Jesus says this to Peter and to all who were listening to Him at that moment to train Peter about truly allowing God's will to work in His life and not to hinder his future witness and testimony to God in Christ by using physical means to bring about His Will versus the Will of God!

Jesus also says this so that what must happen, that is God's Divine and Sovereign Will designed from the beginning of time to bring about the redemption of the entire human race from our sin would occur as planned.

Jesus knew at that moment that He must be allowed to finish the mission for which His Father had originally sent Him; to die in place of all of us, and restore the lost relationship with God we all have inherited by our own selfish intentions, thoughts, & actions, by our sins!

**Jesus Demonstrates His Resolve To Fulfill His Mission
& To Show Us All His Father's Unending Perfect Love For You & Me.**

Context & Location Shift

Verses 12 – 13: Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was High Priest that year.

More details about the arrest and who they were taking Jesus to for trial.

This firmly anchors Jesus' death in a historic context for the Jewish people & for us in the modern world.

Let Me Ask You A Couple Of Final Questions This Morning

Q: "How Do You & I Respond To Such A Perfect Unconditional Love For Us?"

Q: "Do You & I Love Him In Return With All Our Mind, Heart, & Soul?"

**Q: "Will You & I Today Love Him In Complete Surrender
As He Surrendered His Love For Us?"**