

The Gospel of John

The Hour Has Come (Part 2)

John 18:4-11

INTRODUCTION:

It's Fridaaaay ([pause for response](#)) but Sunday is coming!

The hour has come for our Lord to willingly surrender Himself to a death on the cross in order to fulfill his Father's will and bring the promised salvation to mankind. Jesus knew what lay ahead of Him in the next few hours. He knew He was going to face excruciating pain as He experienced the crown of thorns on His head, the whipping of His back, the weight of the cross as He carried it, the nails being driven through His flesh, and his time on the cross as His weight pulled against those nails through this hands and feet. But I believe the hardest thing that He had to face, though, was not the physical pain, but the emotional pain from the wrath of His own Father as He turned His back on Jesus and allowed Him to take on our sins.

In the first eleven verses, we once again see Jesus concerned about His own instead of Himself. He is protecting His own in a moment that could have devastated them, while He Himself is in the midst of being betrayed and being arrested.

Stand and Read Scripture

John 18:4-11 (NASB)

⁴ Jesus therefore, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, came out *into the open* and *said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" ⁵ They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He *said to them, "I am *He*." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. ⁶ Now then, when He said to them, "I am *He*," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ He then asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am *He*; so if you are seeking Me, let these *men* go on their way." ⁹ *This took place* so that the word which He spoke would be fulfilled: "Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one." ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, since he had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, am I not to drink it?"

Prayer

BODY:

I. CHRIST'S DIVINE POWER.

In verses 4 and 5 we see His divine power on display immediately. He did not cause them to come looking for Him or run away from them or try to hide. Jesus walked right up to Judas and all that had come for Him.

Mark and Luke tell us in their gospels that Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss.

Luke 22:47-48 (NASB)

⁴⁷ While He was still speaking, behold, a crowd *came*, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading the way for them; and he approached Jesus to kiss Him. ⁴⁸ But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Jesus does not wait for anybody to say anything, He speaks first to Judas, "**Are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?**"

It is very hard for me to understand how one who had been with and taught by Jesus and experienced His miracles for three years could betray Him. Just a week ago, Judas had seen Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead. The Jews in Jesus' day believed and taught that the Messiah would be an earthly king who would use His power of miracles to overthrow their oppressors and free them. **I suppose Judas just could not get past that.** Jesus had told them that He was going to die and return to His Father in heaven. All of the expectations of working with Jesus at a very high level as He overcame their adversaries was going up in smoke. This news must have been devastating to Judas. It must have convinced him along with the chief priests and Pharisees that, despite the miracles, Jesus must be a blasphemer only claiming to be God. But, of course, he is standing there at that precise moment because he is under the full control of Satan.

It should remind us that Satan is a very powerful being. We, as humans, are not able to withstand his power without the promised protection from God.

Then Jesus faces them all and asks, "**Whom are you seeking?**".

Why does He ask that? He wants to hear them give the warrant. Who do they have a right to arrest? Whose name is on the warrant?

Then listen to His response. He said to them – literally "He said," "**I AM He!**". This was the name of God. Once again, Jesus is proclaiming in front of everyone that He is the Messiah, the Son of God! And I guarantee they understood exactly what He was saying. Listen to verse 6.

John 18:6 (NASB)

⁶ Now then, when He said to them, "I am *He*," they drew back and fell to the ground.

They said, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "*I AM*." And when He said that to them "**they drew back and fell to the ground.**" All the hundreds of them collapsed in a heap on the ground – these great, strong soldiers; these angry, hostile, aggressive temple police. The religious leaders, chief priests - they went down like dominos. This is His power.

John, again, is letting us see Christ in all His glory. He gives the name of God. He declares His deity. All authorities and powers are literally falling backwards in front of one single, unarmed, person at **the power of His name**. They were armed to the teeth and ready for war. Jesus simply speaks the name of God and they collapse.

This was a very simple exercise for God. God says "**Let there be light and there was light**".

This sounds very familiar to the song of Moses in Exodus that we studied last Thursday. Pharaoh and his army had chased after the Israelites after he had allowed them to leave. He thought he had them trapped and was envisioning what he was going to do to them.

Exodus 15:6-10 (NASB)

⁶Your right hand, Lord, is majestic in power; Your right hand, Lord, destroys the enemy. ⁷And in the greatness of Your excellence You overthrow those who rise up against You; You send out Your burning anger, *and* it consumes them like chaff. ⁸At the blast of Your nostrils the waters were piled up, The flowing waters stood up like a heap; The depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

⁹The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoils; I shall be satisfied against them; I will draw my sword, my hand will destroy them.' ¹⁰You blew with Your wind, the sea covered them; They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

This truly demonstrates the power of God! He only blows with His mouth and all of Pharaoh's army is destroyed.

He is the One of whom Paul says, He will slay the lawless with the breath of His mouth.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10 (NASB)

⁸Then that lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will eliminate with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; ⁹*that is*, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved.

There is power in His words. He created by a word; He can destroy by a word. He spoke and it came into existence. He will speak and it will all go out of existence. And while it is in existence, He controls it with whatever He says. They fell helpless at His feet.

II. CHRIST'S DIVINE PROTECTION.

John 18:7-8a

⁷He then asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am *He*;

As they are picking themselves up off the ground, He asks them the same question. He answered and said, "**I told you that I am He.**"

John 18:8b (NASB)

...so if you are seeking Me, let these *men* go on their way."

Here is His point: "**So if you seeking Me...**" In other words, "You have no official warrant to arrest My disciples. Your orders are for Jesus the Nazarene. Then He says, "**Let these men go on their way.**". You have acknowledged twice now that you have no authority to arrest My disciples so let the disciples go."

Why is that an issue? Verse 9 explains:

John 18:9 (NASB)

⁹ *This took place so that the word which He spoke would be fulfilled: “Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one.”*

Back in chapter 17, verse 12 - in the prayer - He said,

John 17:12 (NASB)

¹² *While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name, which You have given Me; and I guarded them, and not one of them perished except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.*

So He protects them out of that love that He has for them, in a moment when if they had been taken prisoner they might have been overcome.

I want you to think about that. He does not allow the disciples to be arrested and brought to trial and judgment. He protects them from that moment in order to fulfill the Scripture that they will not be lost. Hypothetically then, had He allowed them to get arrested, their faith would have been completely shot. What laid in front of them was hard enough as it was. They all scattered. Peter denied Christ three times. He even swore that he did not know Him. Jesus knew that if they were arrested and put through what He was going to be put through, their faith would fail.

We can only lose our salvation if we choose to give it away. As long as we remain faithful to the end and overcome, Christ will protect us from those things that would be deadly to our faith.

Here is a perfect example of the Great High Priest, out of love, protecting His weak sheep. They are not going to be arrested. It is kind of like 1 Corinthians 10:13.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)

¹³ *No temptation has overtaken you except *something* common to mankind; and God is faithful, so He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will"- What? – “**be able to endure it.**”*

This is a personal promise from God! Do you believe it?

The reason we get to heaven is not just because God says it. It is because He sees to it and He is active in it. He protects us from temptations beyond what we can endure. Our Lord is making certain that the all that the Father has given Him do not undergo what their faith cannot handle. What this teaches us is that no matter how weak we may become, how much we may waver in our faith, or how fast we run and scatter, we will never be put through something that would be destructive to our faith.

The important part for us to **ensure that we are in the faith**. Remember what Jesus said about many who were following Him and fell away?

John 6:63-69 (NASB)

⁶³ *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh provides no benefit; the **words** that I have spoken to you are spirit, and are life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe.”* For Jesus

knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He was saying, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

⁶⁶ As a result of this many of His disciples left, and would no longer walk with Him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, "You do not want to leave also, do you?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ And we have *already* believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

God's Word of truth in Scripture is the source and measure not only of all spiritual and moral truth but for all truth of any sort on which it speaks.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

We must live by that truth!

That is why each of us much spend much time in God's Word. **Isn't an eternity in heaven in the presence of the glory of God worth at least that?** We may have all kinds of ideas on what God expects from us and we may put forth serious effort to honor those beliefs, but if it is contrary to the truth of God's Word, it will be of no eternal value to us.

Matthew 7:21-23 (NASB)

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; leave Me, **you who practice lawlessness.**'"

Here is the warning concerning your faith. If it is not of God it is considered "lawlessness". This was exactly what many of the Jews in Jesus' day were guilty of. They honored the law of man over the law of God. And because of that they rejected the Messiah and hung Him on the cross.

Listen to what John tells us concerning **true** faith.

1 John 2:15-17 (NASB)

¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is **not** from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God continues *to live* forever.

If your life is not focused on learning the truths from the Word of God and living by them; if your life has not changed and you are still loving worldly things; if you are still seeking the lust of the flesh; **then you are still of this world**. Only "**the one who does the will of God continues to live** forever."

Jesus taught how many people will taste of the Word of God and then fall away in the parable of the sower.

Matthew 13:3-9 (NASB)

³ And He told them many things in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow;
⁴ and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.
⁵ Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and they sprang up immediately, because they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But after the sun rose, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. ⁸ But others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty *times as much*. ⁹ The one who has ears, let him hear."

The world is a very difficult place to live because it is still being ruled by Satan. He tries to make the temporary things of this world very enjoyable for us. Unfortunately many will hear God's Word and may, for a short time, try to believe, but the temptations of the world will overtake them and they will fall away. **This is a very serious situation to be in!** Listen to what the writer of Hebrew cautions us concerning falling away.

Hebrews 6:4-6 (NASB)

⁴ For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ **and then have fallen away**, to restore them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

Remember what Jesus has just stated in verse 9? "I've lost none." The important part for us to **ensure that we are in the faith. If we are not in the faith then we are not on Christ's protection list!**

John 18:10-11 (NASB)

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, since he had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, am I not to drink it?"

Now Peter just should have stood there and said, "Wow, thank You, Lord." But, no. Peter has a sword and he draws it and whacks off the ear of Malchus.

You know, we are so much like Peter. The Lord says to us, "I will protect you." But we, in ignorance, grab our own sword and try to hack our way through the world.

And the Lord then performs the last miracle before the cross - an astounding miracle in front of the whole crowd. He restores the ear of Malchus. You would think they would all **fall down again** in worship. Any confidence that they might have had about taking charge and arresting Jesus was out the window. Jesus simply surrenders to them.

CONCLUSION:

This event does not come unexpectantly to Christ. **The hour has come!** He must voluntarily, in an act of supreme obedience, give Himself up in our place. "The cup which the Father has given Me, am I not to drink it?"

He is Lord!