

October 19, 2025

"An arrest, his cup and our fireplace: witnesses in troubled times" – Davi Lin

John 18:1-27

Read Together: John 18:1-11

1. Jesus Goes Out (v. 4)

- In verse 4, John writes that Jesus "went out" to meet those who came to arrest him. What does this detail reveal about Jesus' posture in this moment?
- How does this contrast with how we typically imagine an arrest happening?

2. The "I AM" Revelation (vv. 5-6)

- Jesus responds twice with "I am he" (Greek: *ego eimi*). Read Exodus 3:14. What is the significance of Jesus using this divine name?
- The guards "drew back and fell to the ground" (v. 6). What does their physical response tell us about who Jesus truly is?
- How can a prisoner command his own arrest? What does this paradox teach us about Christ's sovereignty?

3. The Shepherd Protects His Flock (vv. 8-9)

- Jesus says, "Let these men go." How does this demonstrate his role as the Good Shepherd (see John 10:11, 14-15)?
- What does it mean that Jesus "fulfilled" his words about not losing any of those given to him (v. 9)?

Reflection: Davi said, "You live as if I were not present, but I am."

- Where in your life are you living as if God is not present?
- What "interior storms" rage within you that need to hear Christ say "I AM"?
- How does knowing Christ's sovereignty in the darkest moment of his life change how you face your own dark moments?
- What would it look like to trust Jesus' supremacy in a current difficult situation you're facing?

Read Together: John 18:10-11 and Psalm 75:8

4. The Sword vs. The Cup

- What motivated Peter to draw his sword in verse 10?

- Davi compared Peter to singing "I believe I can fly" instead of "I believe in God the Father Almighty." What does this comparison reveal about self-reliance versus God-reliance?
- When are you most tempted to take out your "sword" and solve problems through your own strength?

5. The Cup of Wrath (v. 11)

- Jesus asks, "Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?" What is "the cup" according to Psalm 75:8?
- For whom is the cup of God's wrath normally reserved?
- What does it mean that Jesus willingly drinks the cup meant for the wicked?

Reflection:

- Davi said Jesus' arrest points to both his sovereignty AND his self-sacrifice. How do these two truths work together?
- How does Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice address the reality of sin and God's justice?
- What "cup" might God be asking you to drink (suffering, sacrifice, hardship for the gospel)?
- How does Jesus drinking the cup of wrath for you change how you view your own sufferings?

Read Together: John 18:15-18, 25-27

6. The Setting of Denial

- Where is Peter in verses 15-18? What is he doing?
- Davi contrasts Peter warming himself by the charcoal fire with the "fire of the Spirit." What's the difference?
- Why is the detail about the "charcoal fire" significant? (Hint: This will matter in John 21:9)

7. Three Denials

- Peter denies Jesus three times to different people: a servant girl (v. 17), unnamed people (v. 25), and a relative of Malchus (v. 26). How do these denials escalate?
- Jesus predicted this denial (John 13:38). What does it mean that Jesus knew Peter would fail yet still called him a disciple?

9. The Lord Expects Our Mistakes

- Read John 21:15-19. How does Jesus restore Peter after his denial?
- Davi said, "The Lord expects our mistakes...we can trust grace to start all over again." How does this give you hope?
- What's the difference between expecting perfection from ourselves versus trusting in grace?

10. Discipleship Under Pressure

- The sermon said discipleship in John's Gospel is about "being a witness to the truth precisely in the darkest hour." When have you been tested in this way?
- Where are you facing pressure to compromise your witness today?

11. The Mustard Seed Church

- Davi said, "The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. A couple of people who have learned to be disciples in tough times may be called to set the fire of the church again." What does this mean for us as a small group in a culture that often opposes Christian values?
- How can we be faithful in "small things" that God might use for his glory?

Final Reflection:

1. **The Arrest:** Where do I need to trust Christ's sovereignty instead of living "as if he were not present"?
2. **The Cup:** What sacrifice is Jesus calling me to make for the sake of the gospel? Am I reaching for the sword (my own power) or trusting in his cup (his completed work)?
3. **The Fireplace:** What "fireplaces" am I warming myself by that compromise my witness? Where have I denied Christ through my actions, words, or silence?

Sharing & Prayer

- Invite 2-3 people to briefly share one insight or conviction from the study
- Close in prayer, specifically praying:
 - For faith to see Christ's supremacy in dark times
 - For willingness to drink whatever cup God gives us
 - For courage to be faithful witnesses rather than seeking comfort
 - For grace when we fail, knowing Jesus restores us like he restored Peter