

# JOHN 18 vs 1

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The ancients tell us, John lived the longest of the 12 disciples; the original followers of the Lord; **eye-witnesses to Jesus Christ**. And John tells us in great detail, Jesus repeatedly had said: **keep, guard to protect My words**; and **keep, guard to protect My commandments** -- which He summarized into 2 commands: 1. Love God our Father with all our mind, heart, soul, and being; and 2. Love one another... as He loved us... selflessly, patiently, truthfully,

**<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had spoken these words** / His last words to us as a Teacher for 3 ½ years.... while He lived among us;

**He went forth with His disciples** / His **mathetes**: those doing their math... who would be known by this simple identifying mark: **their love for one another**; evidence they still are doing their math; no murderous roman crusaders needed

**they went over the brook Kidron** / mentioned only here in the NT, but 11 times in the OT. The brook Kidron... is in a ravine separating the ancient Temple mount... from **olive groves located at the foot of the Mount of Olives**. In the OT, this river is mentioned during the unsuccessful rebellion of David's son, Absalom... who sought to depose his father,

**they went where there was a garden,**

**which He and His disciples entered** / Gethsemane: **the olive press**. Olives are first mentioned in the scripture **in the days of Noah after the alarming flood**, when an olive branch indicated: the devastation was over and peace had returned. Now, in devotion to His Father... the reason for Christ coming; as His work continued to unfold, He went to this final place.

**<sup>2</sup> And Judas also, who betrayed Him, knew the place: for Jesus often went there with His disciples** / notice, from these words, the majestic Messiah of God; JESUS, our great Shepherd; JESUS, our great Teacher -- accessible, easy to get to. He was not hiding; He was not fearful.



**<sup>3</sup> Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons** / if this was a roman cohort, it could have included from 300 – 600 soldiers; though I would have written: a bunch of fools and bandits; such a lovely crowd of hardheads, with some miserable, some prudish, and some self-righteous thrown in.

And in spite of this serious earth shaking, world changing event, amid all that transpired that Tuesday night of the Passover, John inspired by the Holy Spirit reports this rather humorous incident... for all to enjoy!




<sup>4</sup> So Jesus, knowing all that would come upon Him, went forth, and said to them / knowing He was going to His death; said to these thugs from the religious headquarters,


**Whom do you seek?** / who are you diligently searching for. From childhood they searched for Him. repeatedly Jesus said to these religious buffoons... you will seek me, but will not find me -- obviously, Jesus was not implying this event. Jesus directly accused the religious clowns saying: you seek to kill me, a common fact known by all His followers. Here, the good Shepherd steps to the center, to defend His own. And though it was dark... I've wondered... when stepping forward, did Jesus have a Cheshire grin on His face?

**Who are you looking for?**

<sup>5</sup> They answered Him, Jesus of Nazareth.

 **Jesus said to them, I Am / I Am He**... this Hebraism, recalls any of the familiar names which the LORD revealed to Moses: **I Am that I Am** – The Name describing a quality of God's character; suggesting: **I Am whoever I need to be; I am whatever I want to be.** In these modern days, we might say: **I Am \_\_\_ that I Am...** and fill in the blank. Do you need forgiveness? The Lord says: **I Am forgiving, that I Am!** Do you need mercy, strength or peace? **I Am merciful, I Am strong, I Am peace that I Am!**

**I am He.** / and can you imagine John? this beloved disciple who lived the longest; John who remembers all these unforgettable details, John had to laugh every time he recalled this particular midnight rendezvous with those religious weirdoes!

 **And Judas also, who betrayed him, stood with them** / with that bunch of fools.

<sup>6</sup> As soon then as He had said to them, **I Am He**, immediately they went backward, and fell to the ground / can you imagine? They all fell on their sorry asses! It's funny!

<sup>7</sup> Then / as these white-robed separatists brushing off their butts... and climbing back to their feet.

**He asked them again, Whom do you seek?** / and don't you get the sense this dark night: Jesus had a smirk on His face as He rolled His eyes! After all, all heaven was watching... and I'm sure there were about a million angels ready to thump some heads; but this moment, Jesus signals **He's okay!** You know, the Lord of glory... endured a lot! He could have said, Father, I'm out of here! He could have said: You all... Go to hell! It was an option. But He came to do his Father's will,

**And they said, Jesus of Nazareth** / responding like robots: no different than all those loveless hardheads that we encounter every day.

<sup>8</sup> Jesus sizing up the situation answered, **I told you, I am He:** so, if you seek Me / He is using their words; He's listening to them; but the good Shepherd is not a hireling, and at all costs, whatever the cost, He cares for His own; having just prayed, entrusting them to His Father, **let these go their way:**

<sup>9</sup> That the saying might be fulfilled, which He spoke, Of those whom You gave Me, I have lost none / Psalm 41:9.

<sup>10</sup> Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear / impulsive Peter... who just said, though they all deny you, I will go to death for you... and with all the drama of a Mel Brooks movie... typical of someone... who would pull out a gun now days... what do we read? duh-duh-la-duh! Thank you, Peter, take a bow; apparently, he's not a good aim!

The servant's name was Malchus / and why do we know the name of this servant? Well, because the life of Malchus was never the same... after that night. Obviously, he came to faith... having been touched by Jesus who is the love of the Father; and John or someone he knew in the household of the high priest provided that detail.

<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said to Peter, put your sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father has given Me, will I not drink it?

And here is another curiosity in the gospel of John: the cup is mentioned 33 times in the New Testament; but John uses this word in his gospel letter... only this one time. Hm? Apparently in John's good news, it's the only cup that matters.

Chapter 13 speaks about the historic: last supper... yet reading it, you discover John never even mentions the bread or the cup! Why? Well, it's simple: clearly... John was inspired by the Holy Spirit not to write in that chapter about that stuff, because the Spirit knew the last supper would become like all the other manmade traditions... which have crept into the Church Jesus is still building.

Moses spoke of the cup of Pharaoh; David declares: my cup runs over, David says: there is in the hand of the Lord, a cup; David tells about the cup of salvation -- the cup of yeshua; Isaiah tells us: at the hand of the Lord, the cup of his fury; Jeremiah affirms: the cup at the Lord's hand; though, it is also interesting, Jeremiah describes heathen Babylon... having a special... golden cup;

Matthew, Mark and Luke... tell us about a little cup, nothing special; something able to hold enough cold water for a thirsty kid... today it would be a paper cup, of course biodegradable, since Jesus is not interested in polluting the environment -- He'll leave that to everybody else. They tell us about a cup large enough to hold the fruit of the vine... does anybody really believe Jesus and His disciples will be drinking... His blood in heaven?

And one day, a faithless religious whore will make a big deal about: this fruit of the vine little cup... let's hear Jesus again... let's rethink... and reconsider what He said so we can clearly understand.

Then Jesus said to Peter, Put up your sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father has given me, will I not drink it?

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