

Devotional Questions: John 18:1-12 - The Arrest of Jesus:

1. *Why did Jesus go to a place where he knew Judas would find him (John 18:1-2)?*
2. *Jesus knew this would happen and did not stop it; why (John 18:4)?*
3. *Why was Jesus identified primarily as 'the Nazarene'* (John 18:5)? The correct expression is "Jesus of Nazareth."*

What was the undertone of this reference?

4. *What effect did Jesus have on the group that came to arrest him? Why (John 18:6)?*
5. *What is Jesus' attitude and purpose in these verses towards*
 - a. *those who came to arrest him (John 18:4-6)?*
 - b. *his disciples (John 18:7-9)?*

What application can you draw for your own life?

6. *Why did Jesus keep asking who they were seeking (John 18:4, 7)?*
7. *Did Judas and the soldiers not really recognise Jesus until he identified himself (John 18:4, 7)?*

Personal Reflection:

8. *How can you be better at remaining focused and committed to Christ?*
9. *What tests your frustrations or distracts you from keeping your focus on God's plan? How can you overcome them?*

Devotional Questions: Answers to Questions, John 18:1-12 - The Arrest of Jesus:

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of John* pp 496-536 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1418-1420 for detailed comment.

1. *Why did Jesus go to a place where he knew Judas would find him (John 18:1-2)?*

- *The Lord gave Judas one final chance to repent. Repentance on Judas' part was possible. **"Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders"** Matthew 27:3.*
- *The Lord did not fear **"the power of darkness."** **"When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness"** Luke 22:53.*
- *The Lord had given Judas commandment and enabled Judas to obey it. **"And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him...And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly"** John 13:2, 26-27.*

For today's believer the above shows that:

- *The Lord encourages prompt repentance. **"Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee"** John 5:14.*
- *The Lord enables boldness. **"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus"** Acts 4:13.*
- *The Lord enables full obedience. **"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"** Philippians 4:13.*

2. *Jesus knew this would happen and did not stop it; why (John 18:4)?*

The Lord did not stop His arrest because by it He would:

- *Fulfil the scripture. **"Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?"** Matthew 26:53-54.*
- *Do God's will. **"And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done"** Luke 22:41-42.*
- *Defeat the world, the flesh and the devil.*

"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory" 1 Corinthians 2:7-8.

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" Hebrews 2:14.

"Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered" Hebrews 5:7-8.

- *Raise up believers together with Him.* **“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross”** Colossians 2:13-14.

Today’s believer can therefore say with Paul **“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”** 1 Corinthians 15:57.

3. *Why was Jesus identified primarily as ‘the Nazarene’* (John 18:5)? The correct expression is “Jesus of Nazareth.”*

What was the undertone of this reference?

The answers to both of the above questions under *Question 3* follow. Note first that the term “Nazarene” singular refers explicitly to the Lord’s domicile, as prophesied. **“And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene”** Matthew 2:23. The expression “Jesus of Nazareth” is the Lord’s primary identification because that expression:

- *Occurs 17 times in scripture,* Matthew 26:71, Mark 1:24, 10:47, 14:67, 16:6, Luke 4:34, 18:37, 24:19, John 1:45, 18:5, 7, 19:19, Acts 2:22, 6:14, 10:38, 22:8, 26:9, whereas “Nazarene” singular occurs but once, Mathew 2:23. “Nazarenes” plural occurs once in scripture, in Acts 24:5, as a negative term for **“the disciples...called Christians”** Acts 11:26.
- *Publicises the Lord as a prophet.* **“And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee”** Matthew 21:11 with Luke 24:19.
- *Highlights “the disciples of the Lord”* Acts 9:1. **“And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth”** Matthew 26:71 with Mark 14:67.
- *Terrifies unclean spirits.* **“And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God”** Mark 1:23-24 with Luke 4:34.
- *Heralds mercy and encourages faith to follow the Lord.* **“And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me...And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way”** Mark 10:47, 52 with Luke 18:37, 42-43, Acts 2:22, 3:6, 4:10, 6:14, 10:38.
- *Proclaims “the resurrection and the life”* John 11:25. **“And he saith unto them, Be not afrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him”** Mark 16:6.
- *Fulfils the scripture.* **“Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph”** John 1:45.
- *Floors the opposition.* **“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. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground”** John 18:4-6.

- Documents the Lord **“THE KING OF THE JEWS”** and **“king over all the earth”** Zechariah 14:9 even in humiliation. **“And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS”** John 19:19 with Isaiah 2:3 **“for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”**
- Incites religious persecution of the Lord’s disciples with whom He identifies Himself but can also effect repentance. **“And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest”** Acts 22:7-8 with Acts 26:9.

That list gives 10 particulars with respect to the expression **“Jesus of Nazareth.”** Note however the conspicuously high number of references in the above list with respect to **“Jesus of Nazareth”** and mercy, Mark 10:47, 52 with Luke 18:37, 42-43, Acts 2:22, 3:6, 4:10, 6:14, 10:38. Jeremiah’s observation is therefore an encouragement. **“It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness”** Lamentations 3:22-23.

In sum, today’s believers should be steadfast in following Paul’s exhortation with respect to **“Jesus of Nazareth.”** **“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him”** Colossians 3:17.

4. What effect did Jesus have on the group that came to arrest him? Why (John 18:6)?

See *Question 3* 8th bullet point *Floors the opposition*. Note that the Lord’s use of the expression **“I am”** John 18:6 isn’t of itself what floors the opposition as John has shown earlier. **“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by”** John 8:58-59.

The reason is the Lord’s exercise of **“the power of the Lord”** against **“Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees...with lanterns and torches and weapons”** John 18:3. **“And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them”** Luke 5:17. Neither the Pharisees nor their followers would be healed by **“the power of the Lord”** so the Lord used it to humiliate them instead. The same is true today.

“(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)” Philippians 3:18-19.

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ” 1 Peter 3:15-16.

5. What is Jesus’ attitude and purpose in these verses towards

- a. those who came to arrest him (John 18:4-6)?

See *Question 4*. The Lord humiliated them to give them an opportunity for repentance. See *Question 3* 10th bullet point. **“And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest”** Acts 22:7-8 with Acts 26:9.

- b. his disciples (John 18:7-9)?

The Lord showed that **“having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end”** John 13:1.

What application can you draw for your own life?

The application should be 1 John 4:19 **“We love him, because he first loved us.”**

6. Why did Jesus keep asking who they were seeking (John 18:4, 7)?

Again see *Question 4*. The Lord humiliated them to give them an opportunity for repentance. See *Question 3* 10th bullet point. **“And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest”** Acts 22:7-8 with Acts 26:9.

The Lord repeated Himself as He often did, though recorded exclusively in the Gospel of John, with the expression **“Verily, verily”** John 1:51, 3:3, 5, 11, 5:19, 24, 25, 6:26, 32, 47, 53, 8:34, 51, 58, 10:1, 7, 12:24, 13:16, 20, 21, 38, 14:12, 16:20, 23, 21:18, 25 verses in all, to maximise that opportunity for repentance *by way of genuine confession of “Jesus of Nazareth”* John 18:5, 7. That is how the repentant thief got saved and how any of those that came to arrest the Lord *could* have gotten saved.

“Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God” Luke 12:8.

“And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise” Luke 23:42-43.

7. Did Judas and the soldiers not really recognise Jesus until he identified himself (John 18:4, 7)?

Judas did recognise the Lord. **“And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast”** Matthew 26:47-48 with Luke 22:47-48.

Note that even popular culture recognises the notorious *Kiss of Death* as associated with the *Kiss of Judas*. See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kiss_of_Death. As Paul said of **“...the Gentiles...Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another”** Romans 2:14-15.

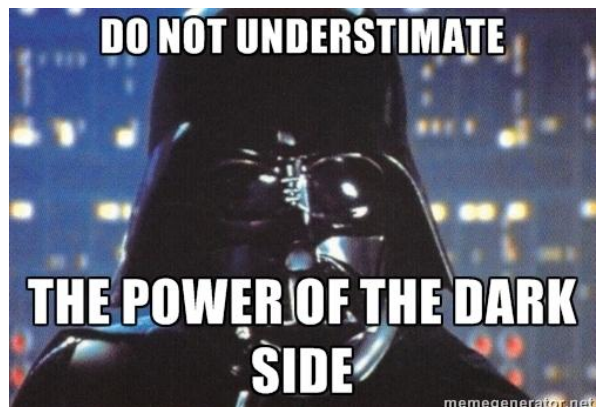
The others went along with Judas for the reason that the Lord gave. See *Question 1* 2nd bullet point. **“When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness”** Luke 22:53.

Note again that even popular culture recognises **“the scripture of truth”** Daniel 10:21.

See memegenerator.net/instance/27265931.

Note therefore the Lord’s warning and David’s prayer with particular application to television:

“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!” Matthew 6:22-23 with Luke 11:34-36.



“Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way” Psalm 119:37.

Personal Reflection:

8. *How can you be better at remaining focused and committed to Christ?*

See again *Question 7* and David's prayer with particular application to television.

"Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way" Psalm 119:37.

9. *What tests your frustrations or distracts you from keeping your focus on God's plan? How can you overcome them?*

The first part of the answer is the usual suspects, which leads to the second part of the answer. See *Question 2* 3rd bullet point *Defeat the world, the flesh and the devil*.

The second part of the answer first entails knowing what God's plan is and then following the scriptures on overcoming the obstacles to its fulfilment **"that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction"** 1 Corinthians 7:35. See the following scriptures.

"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" Ephesians 5:17 with James 1:5 **"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."**

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" Romans 12:2.

"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" Romans 13:14.

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" James 4:7.

As Peter therefore exhorts today's believers **"For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ"** 2 Peter 1:8.