

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life”

The Gospel of John

John 18:1–14

1. In this account of Jesus’ passion—his suffering and death—John highlights Jesus’ control over the situation. This control reflects both his kingly authority and his steadfast determination to obey his Father even to the point of sacrificing himself.
Look up John 10:17-18. Notice how the two emphases of authority and obedient self-sacrifice are tied together. Write these two verses below. (If you wish, see Jn. 13:1–5 for further study.)

Read John 18:1–11, paying attention to Jesus’ authority and his self-sacrificing obedience.

2. Scan back over the headings in chapters 13–17. How has Jesus deliberately prepared his disciples for the events he knows will begin on this night?
3. How has Jesus even, in a sense, cleared the way for his own arrest? (Jn. 13:2, 27–30; 18:2)
4. What does John tell us in the first half of verse 4?
5. This knowledge spurs Jesus to take the initiative.¹ What does he do? (v. 4)
6. The words “I am he” are repeated three times in this passage (vv. 5–8). What is the significance of these “I am” statements? (Ex. 3:13–14; compare Jn. 8:58)
7. How does the large group of armed men respond to Jesus when he identifies himself? (v. 6)
8. What does Jesus then instruct his captors to do? (v. 8)
9. John notes in verse 9 that “This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled.”
 - a. What words has Jesus spoken? (v. 9; Jn. 17:12)

¹ Andreas J. Köstenberger, *John*, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004), 503.

- b. How do you think these words are fulfilled?
 - c. What implication is John making about Jesus' words here? (Mk. 13:31; Jn. 8:28; Heb. 1:1–2)
10. Peter doesn't like the way things are going.
- a. What does he do to try to turn events in another direction? (v. 10)
 - b. What does this action show Peter fails to understand?
Mt. 16:21–23
- Jn. 18:36
11. Jesus will not be deterred from his mission.
- a. What language does he use to describe what he must do? (v. 11b)
 - b. What cup is he referring to? (Is. 51:17, 20; Jer. 25:15)
 - c. What does it mean for Jesus and for us that he drank this cup? (Is. 53:5–10a; Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:24)

Read John 18:12–14.

12. Jesus is taken to the religious authorities for an informal hearing. John makes a point of repeating words Caiaphas, the high priest, spoke earlier (v. 14). How do these words get at the heart of Jesus' mission? (Jn. 11:49–52)
13. Look back over this passage, and consider all the opposition Jesus faces (vv. 2–3, 10, 12–13). Who is behind all this opposition? (Jn. 13:2, 27a)
14. The battle that opens in this passage "is not simply one more skirmish in the unending conflict between light and darkness, good and evil.... John's point in writing his gospel is to share the great and glorious news that this is the decisive conflict..., the outcome of which determines the whole war for ever. That and nothing less is the significance of Jesus' poise and mastery."²
- a. In what area of life are you experiencing struggle or opposition or discouragement?
 - b. How does knowing that Jesus has authority and has won the ultimate victory over darkness change your perspective on your situation?

² Bruce Milne, *The Message of John*, The Bible Speaks Today (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1984), 255.