

“Garden of Destiny”

Read John 18:1-12

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the brook Kidron. Now there was a garden there, into which He entered with His disciples. ²Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. ³Judas then, having received a band of Roman soldiers, and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

⁴So Jesus, knowing all things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said, “Whom do you seek?”

⁵They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth”. He answered and said, “I am”. Judas, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. ⁶And when Jesus said to them, “I am”, they all drew back, and fell to the ground.

⁷Then Jesus asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”

⁸Jesus answered, “I told you that I am. If you are seeking Me, then let these others go their way.” ⁹This he said to fulfill the word which He had spoken, saying, “Of those whom You have given Me, I lost not one.”

¹⁰Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it out, and struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. And the name of the servant was Malchus.

¹¹Jesus said to Peter, “Put the sword in your sheath. The cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?”

¹²Then, the Roman soldiers and their commander, and the officers of the Jewish leaders, bound Jesus, and arrested him.

Study Questions

1. God’s Word starts in a garden. Read Gen. 2:7-10. What major negative outcome happened there?

Genesis 2:7-10

And the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And he planted a garden in the east in Eden; and there he placed the man whom he had formed. And he made to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight... and a river went out from Eden to water the garden.

2. In John 18, we see Jesus in a garden—an olive tree garden. What were some uses for olive oil back then?

More importantly, what was soon to happen, starting here in this garden, that would reverse the Genesis curse?

3. What does Gethsemane mean? How is that meaning at the very heart of what this account is all about, and Jesus' purpose for being there?

4. When Jesus stepped over the Brook of Kidron, it symbolized 'the point of no return'. Write your impressions about this brook, and what this all meant at the time that Jesus did this.

5. What was Judas attempting to get Jesus to do by betraying him? How did Jesus' time in the garden stop his plan?

6. What are some other takeaways that you received from this message? What will happen if we have regular 'garden moments' with Jesus?