

Wallace Been Sermon on John Ch18 v1-14 at Holy Communion.

Introduction: *Emphasis in the Gospels on the last week of Jesus' life*

- "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified" John 12 v 23
 - John Illuminates key truths about the Cross, as well as telling the story of what happened.
 - John's portrait of the Arrest, Trial and Crucifixion of Jesus - he paints a picture like Rembrandt (light on the central figure)
 - Compresses the story to let us see the crucial points he wants to make.
- Lets look at Chapter 18 v 1 -14 and notice the following -

1. verse 1 - scene set in a Garden (see also 19 v 41)
 - reminder of the Garden of Eden (see Ch 1 v1)
 - Crossed the Kidron Valley. Compare the betrayal by Absalom of David.
 2. verse 4 - "Whom do you seek?" KEY QUESTION
 - Jesus of Nazareth (a man, historical man) but is that all that there is to be said? - Who is Jesus?
 - "I am" (verse 5, 6) - he is God in human form.
 3. verse 4 - Jesus knew what would happen to him (see verse 4, 32 compare Ch12 v 33)
 - He took the initiative. He was arrested because he allowed himself to be.
 - Furthermore, verse 9, this was all in fulfilment of the Scriptures.
 - John's Theme : What happened was God's plan predicted long ago. (compare Jesus Christ Superstar!)
 4. verse 10 - The incident of Peter with his sword illustrates that Jesus is the King, not of an earthly Kingdom.
 - Peter is good hearted but misunderstands what is happening.
 5. verse 11 - "The Cup" = Suffering (see Psalms)
 - But more often in Old Testament refers to God's Wrath (i.e. His righteous judgement against sin)
 - Took that with resignation
 - The King was willing to suffer so **for me**
 - He took that "for the people" v14
 - Compare Deuteronomy 21 v 23 (Insert clip from Captain Corelli here?)
- * - " Both Jewish accusers and Roman judge are actors in a drama scripted by a divine planner" - R.E. Brown
- * - " Even the actions of his enemies are used to bear witness to the glory of his identity and what he is in the process of accomplishing" - R.Whitacre

- verse 40 - Bar - abbas = Son of the Father. The ultimate irony!
 - There is no substitute for Jesus: He is a saviour worth following!
- " If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for him" - C.T.Studd