

Bible Study: Judas Betrays Jesus (John 18:1-11)

Our lesson will involve five aspects that address Judas' betrayal of Jesus: Purpose, Prior Knowledge, People, Positions, and Proposal.

Scripture Text--John 18:1-11 (NASB)

1. When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples.

2 Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples.

3 Judas then, having received the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

4 So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"

5 They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am He." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them.

6 So when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground.

7 Therefore He again asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene."

8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He; so if you seek Me, let these go their way,"

9 to fulfill the word which He spoke, "Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one."

10 Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus.

11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?"

Prior Knowledge

Gospels vs. Synoptic Gospels

What are the names of the Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament?

Of these, which are the three Synoptic Gospels and which one is not a Synoptic Gospel?

Gospel Facts

- All Four Gospels include events relating to Jesus and His Disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36–56, Mark 14:32–52, Luke 22:39–46, and John 18:1-11).
- The Synoptic Gospels give a lot of details about Jesus’ prayers, who was present with Him, and events leading up to Judas’ betrayal.
- John’s account does not contain the Last Supper. Also, he’s the only Gospel writer who identifies Peter by name as the one who cuts off Malchus’ (servant of high priest) ear.
- Luke recounts Jesus healing Malchus’ ear. This was the last recorded miracle of Jesus before His crucifixion.

Purpose of John Writing the Gospel of John

Given the fact that the Gospel of John is not one of the Synoptic Gospels, what do you think are some possible purposes for him writing this book? Clue: consider Jesus’ “I Am” statements recorded in John.

John answers this question in John 20:30-31 “Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Ben Godwin puts it this way: “John was like a _____ who opens a car hood to see what makes it run. In the process, he got some oil (anointing) all over him.”¹

People in John 18:1-11

The people in these verses are all sons of some type of father whether biologically, spiritually, or occupationally.

Questions about son/father relationships

What are some **physical** characteristics of a son in relation to his father?

¹ Goodwin, Ben. “The Uniqueness of John's Gospel.” *Daily Mountain Eagle*, Daily Mountain Eagle, 6 Apr. 2020, mountaineagle.com/stories/the-uniqueness-of-johns-gospel,18660.

What are some **non-physical or behavioral** characteristics of a son in relation to his father?

In what ways might a son's physical and/or non-physical behavior toward his father reveal how he feels about his father?

The people described in John 18:1-11 include **seven** different types of sons. In order of appearance, there are:

Sons Mentioned in John 18:1

- Jesus: **Son of God** (John 20:30-31)
- His [Jesus'] Disciples: **Sons of the Way** (John 14:6 and Acts 24:14)

Sons Mentioned in John 18:3

- Judas: **Son of Perdition** (John 17:12)
- Roman cohorts (soldiers): **the Sons of Pontius Pilate and Emperor Tiberius**
- Officers from the high priests: **Sons of Aaron**
- Officers from the Pharisees: **Sons of Vipers** (Matthew 3:7)

Son Mentioned in John 18:10

- Peter: a **Son of the Chief Cornerstone** (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Positions in John 18:1-11

When considering the "positions" in these verses, consider each "son's" **physical** position, **mental** position, and **spiritual** position.

Which one of these three positions **most** controls the other two and why?

"Positions" Verse by Verse

John 18:1

Discussion about Jesus, Peter, James, and John's "positions." Jesus was prayed up but the inner circle of His disciples couldn't _____ up.

John 18:2

What are some of Judas' "positions" in this verse? Judas focused on Jesus' habits but not His
_____.

John 18:3

What "positions" do the "Roman cohorts and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees" have and why?

John 18:4-7

What "positions" do Jesus, the Romans, officers, and Judas" have and why?

John 18:8-9

How do Jesus' "positions" confirm and affirm John's purpose for writing this Gospel?

John 18:10

What are some of Simon Peter's "positions" and why does he feel this way?

Proposal in John 18:1-11

Who is the only person qualified to fulfill Jesus' proposal?

Final thoughts: What type of son or daughter are you?