



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 18:1-11
From Sermon 4.6.25

Read *John 18:1-11*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: With Jesus' monumental Upper Room Discourse concluded, the Gospel now transitions back to fast-paced narrative. The entire context is changed, as they travel to the Garden of Gethsemane for Jesus' final hours of freedom and life. Christ remains consistent in the trials. He keeps on loving His own, enduring in obedience to the Father, and completes all that the redemption would require.

1. God the Holy Spirit has John note "the Kidron Valley". How do details such as locations, names, and reference dates further support the validity of the Bible? The Bible is never afraid of verifiable details. Because it is divine truth, it confronts its critics with historical, geographic, and biographical evidence. Even more so, it also includes prophecy—all of which is perfectly fulfilled—beyond human ability.

2. The Issue of Varying Gospel Accounts. There's no denying that the Gospels contain varying details of the same common events. Why is that? God gave four testimonial accounts that vary in perspective. There is nothing in one that contradicts another, but rather each complements the others. Just as if four of us were to give an account of our day last Sunday, many details would vary, but the overall account would match. Each Gospel was written to a different audience, and each displays a unique role of Christ.

2a. A Few Differences in the Gospels

<u>Matthew</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Luke</u>	<u>John</u>
Prayer with 3 Apostles	Odd account of the young man	An angel comes. Jesus sweats blood. Heals servant	Includes Peter's name Includes servant's name

3. Discuss who's in control of the narrative. Possible answers: the devil. Men—Romans, Jewish leaders. Herod. [in our own drama, we tend to think that we are in control]

3a. Who's actually in control? Jesus. See *John 10:17-18 & John 19:11*

4. Does that reality bring you any comfort when you are going through your own trials? Various Personal Answers.

5. Many characters are reappearing or coming to our Gospel drama. To keep our players straight, let's have another Apostles quiz. List the remaining 11 that go to the Garden with Jesus that night. Peter, James, John, Andrew, Matthew, Thomas, Simon, Philip, Bartholomew/Nathaneil, James, son of Alphaeus, Judas/Thaddeus/Lebbaeus.

6. What was Peter's impetuous act in the Garden? He draws his sword to kill a servant.

6a. Do you ever attempt to alter the plan of God? Discuss.

6b. How did Jesus clean up Peter's mess? He healed the servant & insisted on His arrestors leaving the Apostles alone. See *Luke 22:51*