

According to Plan

John 18:1-27

Main Idea

Though Jesus' arrest appeared to be a failure, His mission was proceeding according to His plan, which involved His voluntary humiliation and suffering on our behalf.

John 18:1-6

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 *band of soldiers* 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.

John 18:7-14

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 *this was* 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?”

¹² So the *band of soldiers* and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, ¹³ and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient

John 18:15-18

¹⁵ Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in.

¹⁷ Then the slave-girl who kept the door said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.”

¹⁸ Now the slaves and the officers were standing there, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter was also with them, standing and warming himself.

John 18:19-24

¹⁹ The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said.”

²² When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, “Is that the way You answer the high priest?” ²³ Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?”

²⁴ So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

John 16:31-33

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You are not also one of His disciples, are you?” He denied it, and said, “I am not.”

²⁶ One of the slaves of the high priest, being a relative of the one whose ear Peter cut off, said, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?”

²⁷ Peter then denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.

According to Plan

John 18:1-27

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1. The willing condescension of Christ
 - a. Jesus infallibly knew what was ahead of Him and proceeded (vs 4)

⁴ So Jesus, **knowing all the things** that were coming upon Him, **went forth**

Jesus knew all about his impending suffering.

He understood exactly what the cost of your redemption would be, and was determined to pay it.

According to Plan

1. The willing condescension of Christ

- a. Jesus infallibly knew what was ahead of Him and proceeded (vs 4)
- b. Jesus had the power to stop it at any time (vs 6, 8)

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

Christ did not suffer because He could not escape.

He did not die because He could not help it.

Christ voluntarily condescended and allowed Himself to be arrested and led to the cross. He was a willing sufferer.

He would go willingly, or not at all.

According to Plan

1. The willing condescension of Christ

- a. Jesus infallibly knew what was ahead of Him and proceeded (vs 4)
- b. Jesus had the power to stop it at any time (vs 6, 8)
- c. Jesus was determined to finish the work the Father gave Him (vs 11)

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?”

Christ agreed to take on and satisfy the wrath of God that we deserve.

On the cross, He drank that “cup” down to it’s dregs.

This is the work that the Father gave Jesus to do, and this is how Caiaphas’ prophecy that “one man would die for the nation” would be fulfilled.

According to Plan

2. The incredible hardness of unbelieving men
 - a. Judas: Apostacy after walking with Jesus and seeing miracles (vs 2)

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

Witnessing multiple miracles was not sufficient to make Judas a genuine follower of Christ and keep Him from betrayal.

The hardness of unbelief cannot be overcome by the proof of miracles outside of us. It can only be overcome by a miracle that God does in us.

According to Plan

2. The incredible hardness of unbelieving men

- a. Judas: Apostacy after walking with Jesus and seeing miracles (vs 2)
- b. Soldiers: Still against Christ after witnessing His power (vs 6, 12)

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

¹² So the *band of soldiers* and the commander and the officers of the Jews, **arrested**

Witnessing the power of Christ did not prevent the soldiers from continuing in their mission against Christ.

The hardness of unbelief cannot be overcome by knowing that God does and will overpower you. It can only be overcome when God uses His power to overcome your unbelief.

According to Plan

2. The incredible hardness of unbelieving men

- a. Judas: Apostasy after walking with Jesus and seeing miracles (vs 2)
- b. Soldiers: Still against Christ after witnessing His power (6, 12)
- c. High Priest: Asking questions but suppressing the truth in unrighteousness (19-22)

¹⁹ The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said.”

²² When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, “Is

Being exposed to the truth did not prevent the High Priest
from rejecting Christ.

The hardness of unbelief cannot be persuaded by the truth
alone, because it is committed to suppressing the truth in
unrighteousness.

According to Plan

3. The temptation for a real disciple to deny Christ
 - a. Peter was not a coward (vs 10)

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

Peter vowed to lay down his life for Christ (John 13:37) and was eager to prove it.

Peter was at the front of the fight when he thought it was time to fight. He was not a coward.

According to Plan

3. The temptation for a real disciple to deny Christ

- a. Peter was not a coward (vs 10)
- b. Peter resisted Jesus' humiliation and suffering (vs 10, John 13:8, Matt 16:21-23)

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

John 13:6-8

⁶ So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, “Lord, You are washing my feet?” ⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, “What I am doing, you do not realize right now, but you will understand later.” ⁸ Peter said to Him, **“Never shall You wash my feet!”**

Matthew 16:21-23

²¹ From that time Jesus began to point out to His disciples that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem and to suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and to be killed, and to be raised up on the third day.

²² And yet Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! **This shall never happen to You!**”

²³ But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for **you are not setting your mind on God’s purposes**, but men’s.”

Throughout Jesus' earthly ministry, Peter was committed, zealous, and brave, but he repeatedly failed to grasp God's purposes for the Christ.

Peter's denial likely wasn't primarily because of fear, but more likely due to disappointment and disillusionment.

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3. The temptation for a real disciple to deny Christ

- a. Peter was not a coward (vs 10)
- b. Peter resisted Jesus' humiliation and suffering (vs 10, John 13:8, Matt 16:21-23)
- c. Like Peter, true disciples may be tempted to deny Christ when He appears to be failing us or taking us where we do not want to go. (vs 17, 25-27)

“You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “**I am not.**”

Peter didn't deny being a disciple of Christ because he thought that Jesus couldn't do something about this situation...

Peter likely denied being a disciple of Christ because he thought that Jesus *could* do something, but didn't.

Every believer will be asked the question “*are you one of His?*”

Will your answer change when Christ’s words challenge you and call you to obey in something that seems very difficult?

Will your answer change when your circumstances are not what you had hoped for? Or when it seems that Christ is failing you?

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