

# NO GREATER LOVE

## 4. Sacrificial Love

### Introduction:

When Jesus was confronted with the mob who arrived to arrest him, he did not fight them, or run away. He yielded to them, because he knew that he had to go through with the death they had planned for him. He demonstrated his love for humanity by choosing to sacrifice himself in that moment.

**Text: John 18:1-11**

### Points to discuss

#### 1. Jesus chose to be arrested

At the time of the arrest, Jesus made himself easy to find, so that there was no delay in his arrest and execution. Though from man's perspective, it looked as though Jesus was in trouble, nothing could be further from the truth. He was fully in control.

Jesus was not a victim of his circumstances at all, he chose them. Therefore, we have no business feeling sorry for him. When we feel sorry for someone, we tend to do things for them out of a sense of pity, and not out of respect. If we felt sorry for God, we would obey him out of a sense of obligation, and not out of reverence and awe.

Jesus positioned himself in the right place, at the right time, in order for God's plans to unfold in the garden that night. He was not caught unaware then, nor will he ever be now. God is all-knowing and all-powerful. We tend to look at circumstances falling apart around us, and we usually accuse God of not caring, not knowing and not doing anything. In those moments, we also tend to fill up with pride, questioning his wisdom, and we come up with long lists of things that God should be doing our way -the "better" way.

#### 2. Jesus chose to be arrested - He offered up himself

When the crowd arrived to arrest him, Jesus made sure they knew he was the right person. He remained calm, while Peter kicked into defence mode and drew a sword, cutting off the ear of one of the soldiers. He didn't realise that Jesus was purposefully going to sacrifice himself, and therefore didn't need anyone to defend him. Later, even in moments where Jesus would be offered a voice to defend himself, he would remain quiet, because he needed to go to the cross.

#### 3. Jesus chose to be arrested, offering up himself, in sacrificial love

Jesus offered up himself, and protected his disciples at the same time. He did not want them to have to die with him. It was his mission alone to carry, because he was the only one who could die in the place of all humanity. His death was necessary for their salvation too. He needed them to *receive* the results of his death and resurrection, and then to go out and share it with the world.



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## Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it wrong to feel sorry for Jesus, as though he was a victim of the circumstances that led to his death?
2. Why is it important for us to see that Jesus was intentional in everything he did?
3. Why is it wrong when we assume God is not able to help us, doesn't care, or has no interest in our circumstances?
4. ♥ Personal Reflection: When last did you accuse God for not doing his job properly and why? What would have been a more trusting response and why would that have been better?
5. Why did Jesus stop Peter from defending him, and why was this ultimately for Peter's good?
6. What is it about Jesus yielding and submitting to this angry mob that is most difficult for you to accept or grasp and why?
7. In what way does this part of the story make you feel Jesus' love for you? Explain.

