

**Main Idea:** *Following the Lord through difficult circumstances can challenge our faith. We live on the edge between trusting God in our circumstances and jumping out ahead, reacting in our flesh.*

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### **John 18:1-11 ESV**

*“When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. **So Judas**, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. **Then Jesus**, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. So he asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.” **Then Simon Peter**, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) **So Jesus** said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”*

### **Key Characters and Responses**

1. Judas - brings soldiers and chief priests with lanterns, torches & weapons (physical)
2. Jesus - patient, clear, confident & humble (spiritual)
3. Peter - draws a sword & strikes (physical)
4. Jesus - stops Peter, reminds him of larger purpose (spiritual)

### **Danger Signs**

*When we “get out of our lane” with Jesus we are at risk.*

1. **Thinking We Know What’s Around the Next Corner: “No Passing”**
  - o *“Jesus knowing all that was going to happen...” John 18:4*
  - o We are in danger when we aren’t looking to where Jesus is leading
  - o Jesus didn’t discard Peter for his mistake!

### **Hebrews 12:2 ESV**

*“Looking to **Jesus**, the **founder** and **perfecter** of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

0. **Taking Things into Your Own Hands: “Do Not Enter”**
  - o Peter (and Judas) took things into their own hands (physical)
  - o We need to ask the Lord, “what is going on beyond the physical world I see?”

### **Daniel 2:20-22 ESV**

*“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.”*

### **Proverbs 16:9 NLT**

*“We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.”*

0. **Not Trusting God’s Answer or Timing: “Speed Limit”**

- o Do you trust God, but struggle with His timing? So did Peter, and all of humanity.
- o We want the **hand of God** but often struggle to **seek His face**.
- o Patience and waiting can be the best teachers.

**1 Peter 1:6-7 ESV**

*“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the **tested** genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

**Spiritual Weapons to Implement**

Philippians 4:4-9

1. Praise
2. Prayer
3. Practice

*“**Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by **prayer** and **supplication** with **thanksgiving** let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of **praise**, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—**practice** these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”*



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