

## Home Group study: week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

### Darkness before the Dawn

#### The Arrest: Who is in Charge?

Have you been in a situation where you have had to take control? Did you enjoy it?

And how did it work out?

#### Read: John 18 1-11

On Sunday Dave talked about the significance of the people in this passage, but he also talked about the significance of the places. Can you recall what he said was the significance:

- a) Of the Kidron Valley?
- b) Of Gethsemane?
- c) Of the olive grove?

*(The Kidron Valley was the place where the lambs were taken for slaughter at Passover and the Kidron Stream, over which they had to cross to get to the olive grove, would run red with the blood of the lambs. The Garden of Gethsemane was where the man Jesus atoned for the sin brought into the Garden of Eden by the man Adam, so the one garden took the place of the other as the one man took the place of the other. Gethsemane means the place of the olive oil press, where olives were crushed to make olive oil. And olive oil is symbolic of peace and healing.)*

Do you think this is all just coincidental (or even a bit far-fetched) or is God telling us something through this? Discuss the message that God might be bringing to us.

#### Understanding

Dave asked 'who is in charge' in this passage? He suggested it might be:

- a) Judas;
- b) The 200 armed soldiers;
- c) Peter;
- d) Jesus

In what way could each of them be seen as being 'in charge'?

Who was *actually* in charge? Does it seem as if he is in charge?

What factors for each of the other three show that they are not in charge?

## Application

Dave, like all good preachers, brought out three points from his sermon:

1. We should never lose sight of the holiness of Jesus;
2. Jesus is in control, however or whatever things seem to be;
3. We need to keep in step with the Holy Spirit.

What does it mean when we talk about the 'holiness of Jesus'?

How can we ensure we never lose sight of it?

How did Jesus show he was in control in the passage in John 18?

How does he demonstrate he is in control now: particularly in the current season we are going through?

How should the fact that he is in control affect us?

In what ways can we see that Jesus is in step with the Holy Spirit in this episode?

How do Judas, the soldiers and Peter all demonstrate that they are *not* in step with the Spirit?

Although Peter was not in step with the Spirit at this time, do you think he became so later?

What happened to enable him to walk in step with the Spirit?

And what evidence do we have that he did so?

What does it mean to us to be in step with the Spirit?

How do we ensure we keep in step with the Spirit?

Let's pray that we keep in step with the Spirit and that we see God's purposes for this church being fulfilled as we do so.