



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

The Cup and the Sword | John 18:1-11

Day 1: The Garden of Victory

Reading: Genesis 3:1-15; John 18:1-2

Two gardens. Two men. Two outcomes. In Eden, Adam hid from God after listening to the serpent's lies, choosing his own way over trust in the Father. His disobedience brought death into the world. In Gethsemane, Jesus, the second Adam, stepped forward, not hiding but advancing toward redemption. Where Adam failed, Christ conquered. This isn't a coincidence; it's divine poetry. Jesus intentionally entered a garden to succeed where humanity fell. Today, reflect on areas where you're still hiding from God, trying to handle things your own way. Jesus invites you out of hiding and into His victory. Salvation begins not with your strength, but with His obedience.

Day 2: The Authority of "I AM"

Reading: Exodus 3:13-15; John 18:3-7

When Jesus declared "I AM" in the garden, 600 armed soldiers fell backward to the ground. This wasn't mere identification; it was divine revelation. The same voice that spoke from the burning bush, that created galaxies, that called light from darkness, spoke in that moment. Jesus could have escaped. He could have summoned legions of angels. Instead, He chose arrest. No one took His life; He laid it down willingly. This changes everything about how we view the cross. It wasn't a tragic defeat but a sovereign choice. The King who can knock armies flat with a word chose nails and thorns for you. Let this truth settle deep: your salvation was secured by One who had all authority and chose to surrender it for love.

Day 3: The Good Shepherd's Protection

Reading: John 10:11-18; John 18:8-9

"Let these men go." In His moment of arrest, Jesus' first concern was protecting His disciples. He stepped between danger and those He loved, absorbing the threat so they could walk free. This is the heart of the Good Shepherd—laying down His life for the sheep. But notice: He didn't protect them because they were strong or faithful. Within hours, they would scatter, deny, and hide. He protected them because of His faithfulness, not theirs. Church, this is our hope. Your salvation doesn't depend on your grip on Jesus, but

His grip on you. Not your consistency, but His. Even when you falter, He stands faithful. He who began a good work in you will complete it. Rest in the protection of the Shepherd who gave everything for you.

Day 4: Put Down Your Sword

Reading: Matthew 26:47-54; John 18:10-11

Peter drew his sword against 600 soldiers; impulsive, chaotic, well-intentioned, but completely missing the point. How often are we Peter? When fear rises, when control slips, when God's plan feels uncomfortable, we grab our swords. We fight battles God never asked us to fight. We swing wildly out of panic, trying to force outcomes, manipulate circumstances, protect ourselves. Jesus' response? "Put your sword away." The redemption plan was never at risk. It didn't hinge on Peter's reflexes or our frantic efforts. While Peter fought the wrong battle, Jesus surrendered to the right one. Today, what sword are you swinging? What battle are you trying to win that Jesus has already conquered? Lay it down. Trust the One who stepped forward to fight for you.

Day 5: The Cup of Wrath and Grace

Reading: Isaiah 51:17-23; John 18:11

"Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?" There is a cup; the cup of God's righteous judgment against sin. Someone must drink it. Either you bear the weight of your rebellion before a holy God, or Christ drinks it in your place. There is no third option, no neutral ground, no middle seat. Jesus stepped forward in the garden because before time began, He intended to drain that cup completely, every last drop, so mercy could be poured out on you. One day, every knee will bow. Every tongue will confess Jesus is Lord. The question isn't if you will bow, but when. Will it be now in repentance, faith, and grace? Or later, forced to drink the cup yourself? The invitation stands: surrender now. Bow now. Let Jesus carry what you cannot.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. In what ways do you find yourself acting like Peter in the garden—trying to fight battles with your own strength instead of surrendering to God's plan?
2. How does understanding that Jesus willingly chose the cross (rather than being overpowered) change your view of His sacrifice and love for you?
3. The sermon contrasts Adam's failure in the Garden of Eden with Jesus' obedience in the Garden of Gethsemane. What does this parallel teach us about humanity's need for a Savior?
4. When Jesus said 'I am' and the soldiers fell to the ground, they glimpsed His divinity. Have you experienced a moment where God's power became undeniably real to you?
5. Jesus protected His disciples even though they would soon scatter, deny Him, and hide in fear. How does His faithfulness despite their unfaithfulness encourage you in your own spiritual journey?
6. The sermon emphasizes that salvation depends on Christ's grip on us, not our grip on Him. How does this truth challenge or comfort you in moments of spiritual doubt or failure?
7. What 'swords' are you holding onto—areas of control, self-reliance, or sin—that Jesus is asking you to put down and surrender to Him?
8. The message presents two options: either we drink the cup of God's wrath ourselves or Christ drinks it for us. How does this stark reality impact your understanding of the gospel?
9. Judas brought 600 soldiers with torches to arrest the Light of the World. In what ways do people today still try to suppress or control Jesus rather than surrender to Him?
10. The sermon asks 'when will you bow'—now in worship or later in judgment. If you've already surrendered to Christ, how can you live more fully in that surrender today?



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

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Key Takeaways:

1. **Jesus chose this:** Nothing could have stopped Jesus. He willingly walked into His arrest for us.
2. **His grip, not ours:** Our salvation doesn't depend on our faithfulness but on His.
3. **Put down your sword:** Stop fighting battles in your own strength and surrender to Christ's finished work.
4. **The cup has been drunk:** Jesus emptied the cup of God's wrath so we could receive the cup of salvation.
5. **Bow now:** Surrender to Christ today in worship rather than being forced to bow later in judgment.

Discussion Questions:

Understanding the Text

1. *The Two Gardens:* How does the contrast between Adam's failure in the Garden of Eden and Jesus' obedience in Gethsemane deepen your understanding of redemption?
2. *"I Am" Declaration:* When Jesus said "I am" and the soldiers fell backward, what does this reveal about His nature and authority? Why is this significant in the arrest scene?
3. *The Four Gospel Accounts:* Pastor Josh mentioned that the four Gospels give us different perspectives on Jesus' arrest (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). Why do you think God gave us multiple accounts rather than just one?

Personal Reflection

1. *Peter's Sword:* In what ways do you relate to Peter's impulsive response? When have you tried to "grab a sword" and fight battles that God was asking you to surrender?
2. *The Cup:* Jesus asked, "Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?" What "cups" (difficult circumstances, callings, or challenges) might God be asking you to accept rather than resist?
3. *Protection of the Disciples:* Jesus protected His disciples even though they would soon scatter, deny Him, and hide. How does knowing that Jesus' faithfulness doesn't depend on your faithfulness change your perspective on your relationship with Him?

Going Deeper

1. *Two Possibilities:* The sermon presented two options: either we drink the cup of God's wrath ourselves, or Christ drinks it for us. How would you explain this to someone who has never heard the gospel?
2. *Bowing Now vs. Later:* Pastor Josh said, "The question is not if you will bow, it's when." What does it practically look like to bow to Jesus now in your daily life? What areas are you still holding back?