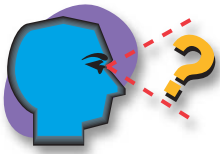


# John



## Responses to the Questions

NOTE: BE SURE TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS YOURSELF BEFORE READING THE ANSWERS IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS STUDY.

### Read John 18:1-27

1. The garden that Jesus and his Apostles went to was the Garden of Gethsemane which was on the Mount of Olives. In fact, the garden itself was an olive grove. Jesus took with him the same three Apostles whom often accompanied him at special times – Peter, James and John and led them to a place in the Garden apart from the rest of the disciples.
2. They went to the garden to pray. Verse 2 states that Judas knew this place because Jesus often went there with his disciples. Also, in Luke's gospel, we're told that Jesus would spend his nights there. Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane is depicted in the first Sorrowful Mystery of the Rosary.
3. Judas told the soldiers that he would signal them as to which one was Jesus by greeting him with a kiss. He further instructed them that after he kissed Jesus that they should arrest him and take him away.
4. The Jewish leaders were jealous of Jesus and considered him a threat to their authority. They wanted him out of the way. They felt he was guilty of blasphemy because he claimed to be equal with God and under Jewish Law one would be stoned to death for such a crime. However, the Jews were under Roman rule and the Romans did not inflict the death penalty for violation of Jewish laws. Therefore, the Jerusalem elite told the Romans that Jesus claimed to be the Messiah – a king. This was a crime that would be taken more seriously by the Romans as it would be treason to claim to be a king when there was only one ruler in Rome – Caesar.
5. Throughout this gospel, St. John makes it clear that Jesus was always in charge of all situations. By including this account, St. John again shows that Jesus chose to present himself to the soldiers. Secondly, by recording the reaction of the soldiers to Jesus' words, "I am He", John is showing the divinity of Jesus in the words "I AM" which is the very name of God and the power and authority that Jesus actually had over them but chose not to use. As stated the words, "I AM" are the words that God chose to identify himself to Moses in the burning bush in Exodus 3:14 and so this divine pronouncement was so powerful that it literally knocked these men off their feet. As St. Paul states in Romans 14:11: "As I live says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall give me praise."
6. As St. Luke recorded, Jesus touched the servant's ear and healed him. (Luke 22:51)



## Responses to the Questions (cont.)

7. Jesus is referring again to the cup of suffering which he asked the Father to take from him in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus was obedient and his will was in perfect alignment with the Father's will, however, that he should "drink" this cup of suffering. In the Old Testament references usually referred to God's cup of wrath. Jesus took on himself the wrath of God toward all our sins.
8. What St. John doesn't tell us is that all Jesus disciples left him and fled. We know from John's gospel that Peter and another disciple who was most likely John himself, followed the soldiers to see where they took Jesus, however, Peter leaves when people start recognizing him. In Matthew's gospel it is recorded that on the same night, prior to his arrest, Jesus had said to his disciples: "This night all of you will have your faith shaken, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed'" (Matthew 26:31).
9. The office of high priest was supposedly for life, however, the Romans had deposed Annas. However, Annas was still very powerful in the Jerusalem establishment, so Jesus was brought to him first.
10. After Jesus had made his prediction about the disciples abandoning him, Peter had responded, "Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be." Jesus replied, "Amen, I say to you, this very night before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."
11. Neither. We all bear the responsibility. All sinners are the authors of Christ's passion.