



“In Control”

John 18:1-11

Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?” John 18:4

Getting on the Same Page

Today we conclude our series, “Come and See.” John invites us to come and see a Jesus who is in full control of his life and destiny.

We live in a big, big world, full of randomness, chaos, and brokenness. And it’s all around us. Much of our anxiety is due to all the things in our world we realize we have little to no control over.

And here is Jesus: The Lord of the universe, during the last week of his earthly life. And it appears at times like events are happening to him. The religious leaders will stop at nothing to have him arrested and killed. And with the help of an inside man (Judas) and some Roman soldiers, they do have Jesus arrested.

But our text in John 18 says something very interesting: “Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him...” Jesus knew. Jesus was in full control...the entire time. He orchestrated events so that he would be found and arrested. During Jesus’ arrest scene, interesting things happen: At one point, when Jesus reveals himself, all the soldiers and religious leaders fall to the ground in awe. Jesus calls himself the “I AM” God of the Old Testament. Peter,

who is with Jesus, doesn't like what's happening. So he pulls out his sword and cuts off the high priest's servant's ear. And Jesus puts it back on!

Jesus needed to go to the cross. He didn't come to earth the first time to reign, but to die in our place for our sins. A short time later, Jesus is on the cross. And he's being mocked/persuaded to use his powers to take himself off the cross. But Jesus wasn't using his power to get off the cross; he was using it to stay on and complete his mission.

Jesus is in full control. He always has been and he always will be. The point of our lives is not to pretend we are in control, or to obsess about what we can't control, but surrender to the God who actually is in full control...to surrender to a God who loves us, who knows what it's like to be in our shoes, who doesn't waste pain, and who won't leave us in our pain. Jesus is a God who will never let us go. Come and see.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

- Discuss something that worries you. Why do you worry about this? How much of our worry is centered on things we have little to no control over? Why do you think that is?
- Read John 18:1-11. Discuss all the ways that Jesus is in control in this passage.

Study

- Respond: In the midst of chaos, God doesn't command us to be still and know that WE are capable of solving our own problems. He tells us to be still and remember that HE is God.
- Respond: God seems to do his best work in the exact moments he appears to be absent.
- Respond: Jesus is not only in control, but he's got us. If we have surrendered to Jesus, there's nothing we can do to lose his love. He will hold onto us even as we sin against him.
- Respond: Our security does not come from our ability to hold onto Jesus, but his ability to hold onto us.
- Respond: Jesus didn't use his power to avoid suffering, but to endure it for us. He drank the cup of suffering so we can drink the cup of salvation. He temporarily lost the love of his Father so that, in him, we can know we never will.

Apply

- Discuss what it would look like to practically deepen our trust in Jesus, who is in control and, if we are in Christ, will never let us go.