

JOHN 18:1FF.
April 27, 1991
ROME GEORGIA
May15, 2016

- I. THE WAY OF THE **FATHER'S WILL** – chosen by **Jesus**
- II. THE WAY OF THE **WORLD'S WHIM** - chosen by **Judas**
- III. THE WAY OF THE **FLESH'S FOLLY** – chosen by **Peter**

Read **John 18:1** When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the **brook Kidron, where was a garden**, into the which he entered, and his disciples.

Gen 2:8 The LORD God planted a **garden** eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. (*eastward = "east of Palestine, the point of reference for Bible directions."*)

Gen 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the **garden** of Eden to tend and keep it.

Open with a reading of **Romans 5:12-21**

- Rom. 5:12** Therefore, **just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—** (*Garden of Eden*)
- 13** (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.)
- 14** Nevertheless **death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.**
- 15** But the free gift *is* not like the offense. For if **by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.**
- 16** And the gift *is* not like *that which came* through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which came* from one *offense resulted* in condemnation, but the free gift *which came* from many offenses *resulted* in justification.
- 17** For if **by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)**
- 18** Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment came* to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life.
- 19** For as by **one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.**
- 20** Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,
- 21** so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. NKJV

There are 49 verses in the Bible that mention "gardens".

- There are **two gardens** mentioned prominently in the Bible - the **Garden of Eden** and the **Garden of Gethsemane**.

- There are **two men mentioned in connection with these gardens.**

Both Gardens were the **seed bed for a single event that would alter the course of human history.** In the one garden walked the **First Adam.** And, into the second Garden walked the one whom Paul referred to as the **Last Adam.**

1 Cor. 15:45 And so it is written, "THE FIRST MAN ADAM BECAME A LIVING BEING." The **LAST ADAM** *became* **A LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT.**

"The last Adam, the Savior, became a life-giving spirit

(John 5:21, For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.).

The difference is that in the first case, **Adam was given physical life**, whereas in the second case **Christ gives eternal life to others.** *Erdman explains:*

As the descendants of Adam, we are made like him, living souls inhabiting mortal bodies, and bearing the image of an earthly parent. But as the followers of Christ, we are yet to be clothed with immortal bodies and to bear the image of our heavenly Lord." bbc

God created the **first man** and placed him in the **Garden of Eden**; it was a garden of **light** and **peace**, there it was that God fellowshiped openly with the man He had created. But man sinned, and broke fellowship with the God who had created him for fellowship.

And now, in **John 18:1** the **Second Man, Jesus Christ, willingly enters into the Garden of Gethsemane**, a garden characterized on that night by **darkness, sorrow, despair** and **gloom**, to restore what the first man had lost.

(the brook **Kidron** = *from the Hebrew, "dusky, gloomy"* possibly referring to the dark waters that were often stained by blood from the temple sacrifices. *Wiersbe*)

The **garden of Eden had the tree of life** - the **Garden of Gethsemane was a step toward the "tree" of punishment and death on Calvary.**

1 Peter 2:24 "Who His own self **bore our sins in his own body on the tree**, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. by whose stripes ye were healed."

- Through Adam's transgression he **forfeited the right to the tree of life** and brought death to all the human race.
- Through the sacrifice of **Christ on the Tree of Calvary - He restored the blessing of the tree of Life.**

1 Cor. 15:22 "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

- Through the **DISOBEDIENCE** of one in a garden, sin entered -
- through the **OBEDIENCE** of another in a garden, Salvation came to man.

God the Father placed Adam in the garden of Eden – God the Son willingly placed Himself in the Garden of Gethsemane.

This "garden" of Gethsemane (Gethsemane = oil press). This olive grove, was no stranger to Kings.

In **II Sam. 15** we read of David's flight across the brook Kidron to the Mount of Olives as he fled from a nation that had rejected him for his rebellious son Absalom. Those who had heralded David as their King, now sought his life.

Nor was this terrain free from the taint of treachery. For it was here that David learned of the unfaithfulness of his trusted counselor, Ahithophel.

(NOTE: Ahithophel **hanged** himself, II Sam. 17:23; Absalom was killed while **hanging** in a tree, II Sam. 18:9ff.; and Judas **hanged** himself Matt. 27:3ff.)

In **John 17:4**, Jesus declares, **I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.**

BUT THIS WAS BEFORE CALVARY,
BEFORE THE CROSS,
BEFORE THE RESURRECTION!

YES. BUT **HERE** IS WHERE THE VICTORY LAY. Battles will be won and lost – but Victory is found in the one who accomplishes the goals that have been set.

THE BLIND POET **George Matheson** HAS MADE THESE SAGE COMMENTS ON **Jn. 17:4**

"Was the work of the Master indeed done?

Was not his heaviest task yet to come?

He had not yet met the dread hour of death. **Why did He say then that his work on earth**

was done? It was because he knew that when the Will is given, the battle is ended!

He was only in the shadow of the garden (in **17:4**), but to conquer these shadows was already to conquer all. He who has willed to die has already triumphed over death. All that remains to him is but the outer husk, the shell. **The cup which our Father gives us to drink is a cup for the will.** It is easy for the lips to drain it when once the heart has accepted it. **Not on the heights of Calvary, but in the shadows of Gethsemane is the cup presented, the act is easy after the choice.** The real battlefield is in the silence of the spirit. Conquer there and thou art crowned." *DB 5/22/69*

Jesus chose: I. THE WAY OF THE FATHER'S WILL –

BUT, there is also:

II. THE WAY OF THE WORLD'S WHIM - Judas **18:2-3**

Jesus entered the Garden on that fateful night knowing full well that which was about to happen. **He was obeying the will of the Father.** For he clearly prayed, "**Not as I will, but as Thou wilt.**" **Matt. 26:39** Tells us that **He left 8 of his men near the entrance and went on alone with Peter, James and John. THESE MEN WERE THE CLOSEST FRIENDS THAT JESUS HAD ON EARTH.**

Judas brought his own "friends" along.

A "Band" may well have been a "cohort" or a tenth of a legion, **600 men.** Whether or not all accompanied him to the presence of Jesus is not clear. But to say the least, there was **quite a crowd** that **approached with lanterns, torches and weapons.**

They came as men would to subdue a Lion, but He met them as the Lamb of God!

They came seeking a man who threatened their earthly plans - and they met the Son of God who was committed to fulfilling the plan of God.

"The Lord **went forward** to meet them, without waiting for them to find Him. This **demonstrated His willingness to go to the cross.**"

The **WORLD'S WHIM** - dictated the course of action for **Judas** as well as for these Jewish officers and Roman troops. Like all of the worlds plans to defeat God – they may appear on the surface to be successful, but they are ultimately fulfilling that which God has purposed.

18:4 "Whom seek ye" - "Jesus of Nazareth" - "**I AM**" He." " **they went backward, and fell to the ground.**"

Psalm 27:2 - "**When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.**"

Judas stood with the world and he went the way of the world. He did not understand.

(one day, many will seek Him. Many will speak His name, many will bow their knee. But in that day, He will say to those gathered there - depart from me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you.)

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III. THE WAY OF THE **FLESH'S FOLLY** - Peter

Peter, zealot that he was, was quick to respond to the enemy. But in his zeal, he acted not out of spiritual wisdom but rather out of the **instinct of the flesh**.

All had affirmed their loyalty to Christ –

Matt. 26:35 "**Peter** said unto him, thou I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise said all the disciples."

But Peter's zeal was not according to knowledge! Jesus had spoken to the disciples repeatedly about those things which were about to befall Him. They had listened but not heard! They knew what they wanted and were resolved to do what they thought necessary to get it.

But God's ways are not our ways! We must keep our spiritual ears open if we are to do the will of God and not the folly of the flesh. Many have gone needlessly to their death.

Isa. 55:8 For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* **your ways** my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than **your ways**, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Two mistakes that Peter made that evening contributed to his error.

1. He argued with the Lord regarding his denial.
2. He slept while he should have prayed.

How often we fall into the same trap. Assuring the Lord we are following Him, all the while we are sleeping on the job and living by the flesh.

History will end one day in **another "garden"**. It will be in that land that **Revelation 21 and 22** speaks of.

- Death will have been cast into the lake of fire.
- Disobedience and sorrow will be a thing of the past.
- The river of life will flow unimpeded from the throne of God.
- The curse will be lifted from the earth - the animals will return to their docile state. –

Isaiah 11:6-8 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

Isa 11:7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

Isa 11:8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

The deserts will disappear. –

Isaiah 35:1 The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose;

The earth will yield her increase a hundred fold. –

Amos 9:13 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow *with it*.

And Jesus will be here personally to bless his people. –

Rev. 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.