

## HOME GROUP QUESTIONS FROM SERMON 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

### Sermon – John 18 v1-11 – Personal/Group Study and Reflection “Seeking Jesus in a chaotic world”

#### John 18 v1-11 (English Standard Version)

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. 2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4 Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” 5 They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. 6 When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. 7 So he asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” 8 Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.” 9 This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.” 10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) 11 So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

These questions relate to the morning sermon (8.30, 10.30 and 12.00 services) on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (available on the church website). Feel free to pick and choose questions as appropriate for your group – they are there to facilitate good discussion / reflection.

#### (1) Opening reflection / discussion.

(a) What influences your perception of who Jesus is? Consider things that contribute to a ‘right’ perception and those that ‘cloud’ your perception (e.g. preconceptions; your own agenda for Jesus).

#### (2) Betrayal. Judas had been a close disciple of Jesus and yet betrayed him (v2).

(a) Why do you think Judas could act in this way after following Jesus?

(b) Have you ever been badly let down by someone you trusted or been falsely accused? How did you respond? How do you feel about your response now after reflecting on how Jesus responds?

#### (3) Accusers seek Jesus. The soldiers come in great numbers to arrest Jesus (3).

(a) Why do you think they came in such number (anything from 200-600 from the Greek word used for ‘band’)? What does this tell us about their perception of Jesus?

(b) Why do you think they fell to the ground when Jesus revealed his identity?

(c) What experiences have you had / seen when Jesus revealed His spiritual presence?

#### (4) Jesus’ response. Jesus responds in striking ways to his arrest.

(a) What strikes you about how Jesus reacts to arrival of soldiers? Consider his demeanour and what he does / does not do. What does this tell us about Jesus?

**(b) Why does he react so strongly to Peter cutting off the High Priest's servant's ear?**

**(5) Learnings. His arrest increases our understanding of Jesus in a number of ways.**

**(a) What does his arrest tell us about the fulfilment of God's purposes, plans, and promises?**

**(b) What does it tell us about the nature of the battles we so often face and how to deal with them?**

**(c) How might these strengthen our faith even as we ponder on the enormity of the injustice and suffering that Jesus endured.**

**(6) Final Reflection.**

**(a) Has your perception of Jesus changed in any way from reflecting on his arrest?**