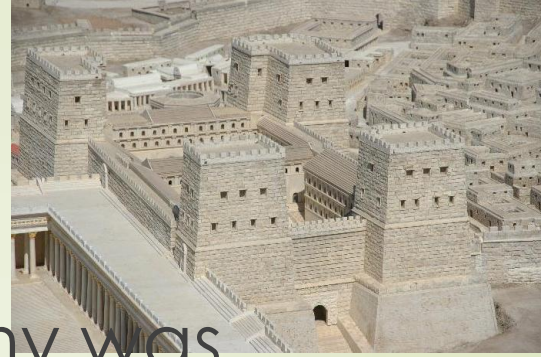




Jesus Name Above All Names

John 18:1-11

A Show of Force



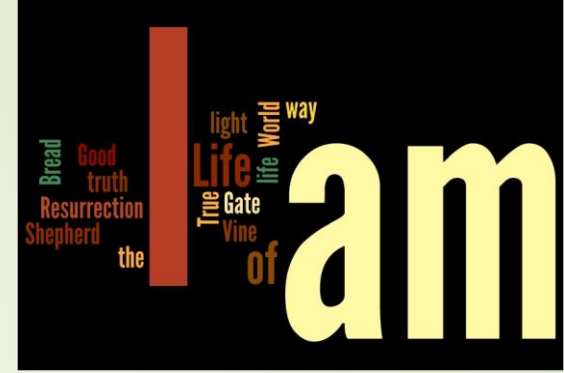
- “a band of soldiers” a **cohort** in the Roman army was about 500 to 800 men, garrisoned in Antonia Fortress during feast days.
- “officers from the chief priests” Jewish temple guards
- The lanterns, torches, and weapons were for **a show of force**, aside from their practical values.
- Clearly they wanted to show **overwhelming force** to deter any trouble.
- This world and the troubles that we face can look very **intimidating** and overwhelming at times.

Jesus knows all things



- At a glance Jesus & his disciples were doomed. But Jesus has **power** that cannot be judged by this world's standard.
- (v.4) Jesus knows **all** things (see. 2:24; 6:64; Psalm 139:1-4)
- Let's pause for a minute to think about this: Jesus knows all things and He knows you, and He still loves you.
- Even though Jesus knew their intention, He **asked** them anyway, and twice they answered "Jesus of Nazareth." This was for the benefit of the disciples. Jesus wanted them to arrest Him **alone**. (v.8-9)
- He is still **protecting** us like that today. (Romans 5:6-8)

Jesus Name Above All Names



- He called Himself “I am he” three times. However, in Greek it is the exact same word as in 8:12; 24; 28; 58, and many other “**I AM**” statement in this gospel.
- (Exo. 3:13-14) Jesus was declaring His **deity** to them.
- Jesus’ **name** has such power that they all fell when Jesus proclaimed Himself to them. (Phil. 2:9-11)
- Jesus’s name is powerful enough. (Pro. 18:10) The disciples had no need of sword or spear to protect themselves, and yet...

What Is Your Weapon?



- Not just the soldiers had **swords**, so did **Peter**...
- Who looks like they are **in control**? The soldiers of course, since they had the men and the weapons. In reality it was Jesus all along.
- But how did Peter try to **gain control**? By showing and using his weapon.
- The sword would not do Peter much good. Why did he use it? He bought into the **lie**—we need **weapons** (i.e. talents, money, status, positions, etc.) to be in control (to fix the problem, to overcome difficulties, etc.).
- We are still living in the same lie today...

- Peter felt like he needed to swing a sword even when Jesus was protecting him just fine...because he needs to **take control** (since he THOUGHT Jesus had no control).
- Being **responsible** (i.e. sowing & reaping) and being **in control** is NOT the same thing.
- We are called to use **tools** (gifts as a steward 1 Peter 4:10), not **weapons** (to take control).
- We are called to be responsible and do all things in the name of the Lord, since **Jesus is in control**, not us. We will NEVER be in control, and there is no need.
- Are you ok with that?

