

The Way of the Cross

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I. Introduction. Text: John 18:1-19:3.

II. John leaves many of the details of the Lord's struggle in the garden out because he emphasizes the Deity of Jesus over the humanity of Jesus.

III. Judas brought many soldiers against a few unarmed fishermen.

A. The unexpectedness of Jesus approach caused them to fall backwards.

B. John conveys the ridiculousness of the situation by the amount of soldiers and the fact that the soldiers obeyed Jesus' command to let the disciples go.

IV. Jesus was gracious to Peter because He healed the ear that he lopped off. We are often guilty of "lopping off" the ears of others.

V. Christianity is not easy—the cross is the answer to our troubles.

A. We are to trust God—He is part of the program.

B. There may be pain and anguish, but the result is certain.

VI. Peter's deceit is contrast with Jesus' honesty in the face of devious questions.

A. Jesus modeled what it means to turn the other cheek.

B. When hit He reminded them of the law but did not retaliate.

VII. John emphasizes that God is in control through all of this.

VIII. Jesus told Pilate that He was a king, but king of another world.

IX. Jesus' crucifixion recalls Isaiah 53.

X. Conclusion.

A. Human free will operates always within the framework of divine determination.

B. If we choose the things of the world, we must suffer the results of our own folly.

Application questions:

1. How does divine determination play itself out in this account?

2. What kind of challenges do faithful Christians face today when they witness to Jesus?

3. How did Jesus model to respond to retaliation?
