I. **INTRO:**

A. Arielle Ritter - YWAM; Dec.29th leaves;
   1. Consider supporting Arielle; In info booth after service.

B. CCCM has a ministry “Widows Helping Widows” - Weekend Retreat @ Hot Springs.
   1. Women who have lost their spouse. Share experiences. Steps of grief.
   2. Janie Alfred Speaker. Jan 22-24; $115 (can’t afford let me know) Details on Bulletin Board.

C. Wed Night: Invite you, message entitled “What If” [A personal challenge to Christians in 2010]
   1. New Years Eve’s, Eve, Wed night 7pm, not Thursday night.

D. I wrote a *Poem* from Heb.10:5 years ago called *Earth Suit!*
   1. Heb.10:5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.
   2. A body You have prepared for Me, Fearfully and wonderfully created for Me. An Earth Suit completely tailored-n-knit, Specially designed for a manger to fit. A body to live, but a body to die, I have come in the flesh, for I was born to die. From pudgy little hands, pink and new, To nail pierced, and bleeding for you. My soft face once My mother did kiss, Now cheek defiled, by a betraying kiss. In My first steps my parents did boast, Then later My feet held fast to a post. To be a resident of the very world I made, An infant child in a manger was laid. A body You have prepared for Me, To coo, to grow, to save, to bleed!
   3. This is our segue from the *birth* of Christ to the *crucifixion* of Christ.

E. **Overview:** Moving from chapters 13-17 to now ch.18 is like enjoying a *steamly hot shower*, when all of a sudden it goes *freezing cold*.
   1. We now step into Jesus’ *betrayals & denials & trials*.

F. **Outline:** A Brook; A Garden; A Sword; A Cup; An Arrest.

II. **BETRAYAL!**

A. **A BROOK!** (1a)

B. Our Lord went forth from the city(Jer) & across the brook Kidron to Gethsemane, but not for concealment but for “reveal-ment”...as verse 2 explains.
   1. **It’s vulnerable.** It’s a private spot away from city buildings that might hide Him & from the crowds that might protect Him.¹

¹ Chuck Swindoll; John; pg.50
2. About 28 generations earlier, Jesus’ great grandfather (to about the 28th) King David, crossed this same brook (2 Sam.15:23) when he was exiled from his throne. Also because of betrayal of his own friends & family (Absalom).

C. A GARDEN! (1b-9)

D. Interesting this took place in a garden, Christ, the Last Adam.
   1. He met the enemy in the garden & triumphed; while the first Adam met the enemy in the garden & failed.
   2. Adam hid himself, but Christ openly revealed Himself.

E. Et tu Judas? An inside job. Insider trading if you will (30 pieces of silver, the going price of a slave)

F. His sin had been growing for a long time (see Jn.6:64)
   1. He doesn’t seem to be a monster of evil, but instead simply selfish.
      Which led to insincerity as a disciple; falseness as an apostle; theft as a man; & at length perdition as a traitor.
   2. And look what didn’t help him:
      Not the wonderful 3 year privilege of walking with Jesus;
      Not 3 years of listening to divine truth from Jesus himself;
      Nor even being numbered among the apostles.
      a) Oh the awful possibilities of evil when our heart is separated from Divine grace!
      b) “Oh but for the grace of God, so go I!”

G. (3) Irony: They came w/lanterns & torches looking for The Light of the world!
   1. And the light just stands there. W/o pretense, w/o protection & shines openly through the darkness.

H. This detachment of troops (speira) was a 10th part of a legion. Normally comprised 600 men (yet varied 200-1200).
   1. This large # of soldiers not only insured the success of the arrest but also would have been able to stave off any riot that might ensue.

I. (4) Knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward!
   1. A willing voluntary sacrifice.

J. (5,6,8) Note the thrice-repeated phrase “I AM he”. [he not in Greek]
   1. It is a reiteration of the divine name from Ex.3:14 (Moses: who should I say sent me?)
   2. Also used by Jesus in John 8:58. Also note the effect of Christ’s statement on the hearers. His presence overawed them.
      a) The same name that saves believers, condemns the lost.

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2 Griffith Thomas; The Apostle John; pg.221
K. (5,6) Question: Was Judas left standing?


L. **A SWORD!** (10,11a)

M. See anything unusual? A sword in the hands of a fisherman?

N. Like *a lamb silent before its shearers*, Jesus, offered no resistance (Is.53:7).

1. **Not so w/Peter.** Instead he does a little *shearing* of his own!
2. **But, there would be no blood shed** besides his!

O. Jesus warned His disciples to go away, lest they fall into trouble(8).

1. He had already told them they would scatter(16:32) but Peter preferred to remain & fight - & got into danger because of it.
2. I agree with Warren Wiersbe’s assessment of this text, “Peter’s sin was not that he “followed from afar” but that he **followed at all!”**
3. **Christ never needs our protection; the weapons we are to use to fight Satan are spiritual ones.**
   a) Peter used the **wrong weapon**, had the **wrong motive**,
      acted under the **wrong orders**, & accomplished the **wrong result**.³

P. As Paul said to the Israelites (Rom.10:2) they have a **zeal** for God, but not according to **knowledge**, so could we say about Peter here.

1. Ok, so what does a **healthy zeal** look like: [Source unknown]

Q. A zeal**ous man in religion is pre-eminently a man of one thing.** It is not enough to say that he is earnest, hearty, uncompromising, thorough-going, whole-hearted, fervent in spirit. He only **sees** one thing, he **cares** for one thing, he **lives** for one thing, he is **swallowed up** in one thing; and that one thing is **to please God**. Whether he lives, or whether he dies - whether he has health, or whether he has sickness - whether he is rich, or whether he is poor - whether he pleases man, or whether he gives offense - whether he is thought wise, or whether he is thought foolish - whether he gets blame, or whether he gets praise - whether he get honor, or whether he gives shame - for all this the zealous man cares nothing at all. He **burns for one thing;** and that one thing is to please God, and to advance God’s glory. If he is consumed in the very burning, he cares not for it-he is content. He feels that, like a lamp, **he is made to burn;** and if consumed in burning, he has but done the work for which God appointed him. Such a one will always find a **sphere for his zeal.** **If** he cannot preach, work, and give money, he will cry, and sigh, and pray... **If** he cannot fight in the valley with Joshua, he will do the work of Moses, Aaron, and Hur, on the hill (Exodus 17:9–13). **If** he is cut off from working himself, he will give the Lord no rest till help is raised up from another quarter, and the work is done. This is what I mean when I speak of ‘zeal’ in religion.

³ Warren Wiersbe; Outlines in the NT; John 18:1-14
R. How gracious of Jesus to heal Malchus, & thus protect Peter from Harm.
   1. Otherwise there might have been another cross on Calvary, & Peter would have been crucified before God’s time had come (& missed out on 1st 1/2 of Acts)

S. A CUP! (11b)

T. (11) The cup which My Father has given Me -
   1. Let us ever take the cups of life’s pain & sorrow direct from the hand of God; not seeing Judas, but the Father!
      a) Joseph told his brothers (back in Genesis) that it was not they who had sent him to Egypt, but God.
      b) David would not have Shimei silenced, because he felt that God had allowed him to utter his anathema.
      c) Here, Jesus rested absolutely on the Father who loved Him before the world was made.
      d) It’s also like Paul seeing His chains from the Lord, not Rome.

U. What do you trust in?
   1. Judas trusted on the strength of numbers; Peter on the strength of his arm; Annas & Caiaphas on the strength their position; Jesus on the strength of love & devotion to the Father.
      a) Jesus had a cup in his hand, not a sword, but that cup was His scepter.
      b) He was in complete control.

V. AN ARREST! (12-14)

W. The snare is tripped; the prey is caught. Mission Accomplished.

X. What Meekness & Majesty are here!
   1. Meekness - that He should subject Himself to the arresting, binding, & leading
      a) We snicker at Delilah trying to bind Samson in the beginning, she didn’t know what she was dealing with.
      b) Note: He never looses control; He responds willingly; He shows compassion on both the disciples (8,9) & the soldiers (10,11).
   2. Majesty - that He should be able to use the unspeakable Name of God “I AM”.
      a) Jesus, a picture of calm dignity, real majesty, & showing in His last & supreme test incredible victory.
      b) His closing hours were in entire consistency with His beautiful life & ministry.

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4 F.B.Meyer Biblical Commentary; pg.475.
5 Warren Wiersbe; With the Word; pg.702.
Y. (13) Apparently a preliminary & private examination was held while the Sanhedrin was being hastily summoned.

Z. (14) John reminded his readers of Caiaphas’ unconscious prophecy (Read John 11:49-52)

1. Caiaphas, trying to save his political skin proposed a simple lethal solution
   “Why should the whole nation be destroyed? Let this one man die for the people.” [He didn’t realize how correct he was!]
2. Admire the bee: It sees its hive being threatened it will use its one defense, its stinger!
   It will die in defense of their hive. They have one thought only, the safety of the others in the hive, & gladly will give their life for the good of the many!
3. Admire Jesus: He has one thought only, the safety of the others in His world, & gladly will give His life for the good of the many!

Poem: Baby God!

What adorable hands on that lil tike; Yet both hands destined for a very cold spike.
Peach fuzz surrounding the crown of his head; Soon to be thorns appearing in its stead. Pudgy feet kicking in rhythm & pace; Later to be nailed & fastened in place.
Now lying in hay, its warmth is His bed; Shortly on limestone He’ll lay his sweet head. An Infant Twas He for only a time; But a Savior always, for He is Divine!