



JOURNEY with JESUS

The Power of the Spoken Name

David Griffin

In John 18:1-11, we are told the story of Jesus and his disciples in a garden before he is arrested, imprisoned, tried, persecuted and ultimately crucified on the cross. Jesus and his disciples are in a garden when a detachment of soldiers, accompanied by officials from the Chief Priest and Pharisees arrive, carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. They clearly were expecting a battle or a fight. I believe that they were at least anticipating Jesus' disciples to defend and protect Him. What happened next shocked and surprised them:

Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to Him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" They replied, "Jesus of Nazareth." "I am He," Jesus answered.

What is both interesting and profound is that in the original Greek text, the words *ego eimi* that Jesus used in his reply "I am he" do not actually include the word "he" - just "I am." So, Jesus' presence and the power of the spoken name is enough to repel the soldiers. These soldiers were probably part of the Imperial Guard. They were hardened, strong men who were fearless and not used to being in a weakened state. Without anything more than his presence and His words "I Am," they "drew back and fell to the ground." Little did the soldiers, the Chief Priest, or the Pharisees comprehend the power of his divine name. When Jesus declares, "I am," he is describing more than just his divine name; he is defining his divine nature. In fact, throughout the book of John, Jesus more fully defines his nature through his "I am" statements:

- "I am the Bread of Life." (John 6:35)
- "I am the Light of the World." (John 8:12)
- "I am the Door." (John 10:9)
- "I am the Good Shepherd." (John 10:11)
- "I am the Resurrection and the Life." (John 11:25-26)
- "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." (John 14:6)
- "I am the Vine." (John 15:5)

In our search for a deeper relationship with Jesus, what should our response be when he asks us, "Who is it you want?" Do we truly comprehend the power of his divine presence and nature when he answers, "I am."? Or have we lost the ability to stand in awe and wonderment when we are in his presence and speak His divine name? Shouldn't our attitude and posture change to one of reverence and amazement as we draw back and fall down in worship?

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

Rekindle in us the desire to worship you with a deeper reverence of your name, your nature and your love for us.

In Jesus' name, Amen