

John 10 — Nobody Took His Life

John 10:17–18 (with 10:11 · 10:15 · 18:6 · 19:30) · For posting on YouTube & Facebook. Use the overview for the description; add the prompt and links wherever they fit.

VIDEO OVERVIEW (post-ready)

Everybody knows Jesus died. Watch how he says it's going to happen: **“No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord”** (10:18). Read that again — nobody took Jesus' life. Not Judas, not Pilate, not the soldiers, not the nails. He laid it down. Four times in eight verses he says it — *“I lay down my life”* (10:11, 15, 17, 18) — until you can't miss it. The cross wasn't a tragedy that happened to a good man who lost control of the situation. It was the deliberate act of the Good Shepherd, who says, *“I lay down my life for the sheep”* (10:15). And notice the authority runs both directions: **“I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again”** (10:18). The crucifixion and the resurrection come out of the same breath. So when you get to the arrest and the trial, watch him — every step, he's the one in control. He walks to that cross on purpose, for you.

GO DEEPER — STUDY PROMPT FOR VIEWERS

Read John 10:11–18 with a pen and underline the phrase “lay down my life” every time it shows up — you'll find it four times in eight verses. Then turn to the arrest in **John 18:1–11** and read it hunting for one thing: who is in control? Watch the soldiers draw back and fall to the ground when Jesus simply says “I am he” (18:6). Watch him hand himself over. Then finish at **John 19:30** — “It is finished” — and ask honestly whether that's the sound of a victim, or of a King completing the work he came to do. Nobody took his life. He gave it.

KEY PASSAGES REFERENCED

Elsewhere in John: 10:11 · 10:15 · 10:17–18 · 2:19 · 18:4–6 · 18:11 · 19:11 · 19:30

Other Gospels: Matthew 26:53

Rest of Scripture: Isaiah 53:7, 10

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

I Have Authority to Lay It Down and I Have Authority to Take It Up Again

John Piper — Desiring God

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/i-have-authority-to-lay-it-down-and-i-have-authority-to-take-it-up-again>

On John 10:17–18: Jesus lays his life down by his own authority and takes it up again — the cross and the resurrection as one deliberate, sovereign act.

The Shepherd's Charge from His Father

Ligonier Ministries

<https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/shepherds-charge-from-his-father>

Walks John 10:17–21: Jesus died under his own authority, allowing others to kill him — a voluntary sacrifice at the Father's charge, not coercion.

Expository Thoughts on John — Chapter 10

J.C. Ryle — GraceGems

<https://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/j10.htm>

Ryle on the Good Shepherd: “our Lord submitted to death of His own free will” — the voluntariness of the cross.