

John Chapter 18 “Jesus on Trial”

I. Jesus is Betrayed (Verses 1-11)

1. He was betrayed by Judas (1-5)

- i) Judas appeared to be just like the other disciples, but appearances are not everything.

2. He went willingly to drink the cup of suffering (6-11)

- i) He was powerful. See that the guards had no power over Him, they fell down when He spoke a word!
- ii) He didn't defend Himself and rebuked Peter for trying to defend Him
 - Did you know that God doesn't need us to defend Him? He is perfectly capable of doing so Himself!
📖 Matthew 26:53 “Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?”
- iii) It was His desire to go to the cross. He knew that the only way to save us was to not save Himself.
📖 Hebrews 12:2 “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

II. Jesus on Trial Before Annas (Verses 12-14, 19-23)

1. Annas had the power of the high priest (12-14)

- i) He was Caiphas' father in law, and was the power behind the throne.

2. Jesus' teaching is true and His conduct is good (19-23)

- i) His teaching was true and done openly.
 - Pride had kept many of these people from hearing the truth.
📖 Matthew 11:25 “At that time Jesus answered and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.”
- ii) His conduct was good. There was no one who could accuse him of evil.
 - People judge Jesus prematurely. If only they would have taken the time, with an open mind, to discover the truth about Him.

III. Jesus on Trial Before Caiphas and the Sanhedrin (Verse 24)

1. There were two trials before Caiphas and the Sanhedrin (See: Mark 14:53-56, and Luke 22:47-53)

- i) One before dawn, hurriedly and illegally, where Jesus was mocked, spit upon, and beaten.
- ii) One after dawn, which was the official trial

IV. Peter Denies Christ (Verses 15-18, 25-27)

1. He denied Jesus three times

- i) His denials were not before great leaders or massive groups of people. He denied Jesus to a few common people and a servant girl.
- ii) Even the strongest man is not strong enough to follow Christ without the help of the Holy Spirit.
 - Without Him, we become like Peter—inconsistent at best.

- “At this point, Peter is full of contradictions. He was bold with a sword in his hand, but a coward before a servant girl.” – D. Guzik

V. Jesus on Trial Before Pilot (Verses 28-40)


1. They said He was a criminal (28-32)

- i) Through their ignorance and pride they had accused the ONLY good man that had ever lived of being a criminal deserving of death
 - See their hypocrisy: they wouldn't enter the praetorian because of religious uncleanness, but they would murder and innocent Jesus!
- ii) They were not allowed to put Him to death. He would die on the cross, the Roman way of execution.

2. He said He was a King (33-37a)

- i) Pilate could have been worried that Jesus wanted to overthrow his government...but Jesus didn't look like that type of person.
- ii) He said He was a king, but not like the kings and kingdoms of this world
 - His kingdom originates in Heaven. It is not of this world.
 - Augustine observed from this verse that earthly kingdoms are based upon force, pride, the love of human praise, the desire for domination, and self interest - all displayed by Pilate and the Roman Empire.
 - The heavenly kingdom, exemplified by Jesus and the cross, is based on love, sacrifice, humility, and righteousness.

3. What is truth? (37b-38)

- i) Jesus declared that those who are of the truth hear His voice
- ii) People in the world today are not willing to face the truth. They hide behind an argument that says “we can never really know the truth.”
 - (i) The young son of some atheists went to his parents one day, and said, "Do you think God KNOWS we don't believe in Him?"
- iii) Jesus is the truth
 - Today you can stop searching. Jesus is the truth and the meaning of life.
 *John 14:6* “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

4. The people love the wicked more than the righteous (39-40)

- i) They chose Barabbas before Jesus. This is a true revelation of the heart of man.
- ii) Whom have you chosen?