

John 18 Judas Betrays Jesus

When Jesus had spoken these words, He went away with His disciples across the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden which He entered with His disciples. 2 Now Judas, who was betraying Him, also knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with His disciples. 3 So Judas, having obtained the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. 4 Jesus therefore, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, came out into the open and said to them, “Whom are you seeking?”

5 They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He said to them, “I am He.” And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. 6 Now then, when He said to them, “I am He,” they drew back and fell to the ground. 7 He then asked them again, “Whom are you seeking?” And they said, “Jesus the Nazarene.” 8 Jesus answered, “I told you that I am He; so if you are seeking Me, let these men go on their way.”

9 This took place so that the word which He spoke would be fulfilled: “Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one.” 10 Then Simon Peter, since he had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave’s name was Malchus. 11 So Jesus said to Peter, “Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, am I not to drink it?”

Jesus before the Priests

12 So the Roman cohort, the commander, and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him, 13 and brought Him to Annas first; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. 14 Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was in their best interest for one man to die in behalf of the people.

15 Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, 16 but Peter was standing at the door outside.

So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in. 17 Then the slave woman who was the doorkeeper said to Peter, “You are not also one of this Man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” 18 Now the slaves and the officers were standing there, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter was also with them, standing and warming himself.

19 The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. 20 Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple area, where all the Jews congregate; and I said nothing in

secret. 21 Why are you asking Me? Ask those who have heard what I spoke to them. Look: these people know what I said.” 22 But when He said this, one of the officers, who was standing nearby, struck Jesus, saying, “Is that the way You answer the high priest?” 23 Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?” 24 So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Peter’s Denial of Jesus

25 Now Simon Peter was still standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You are not one of His disciples as well, are you?” He denied it, and said, “I am not.” 26 One of the slaves of the high priest, who was related to the one whose ear Peter cut off, *said, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?” 27 Peter then denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.

Jesus before Pilate

28 Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter the Praetorium, so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. 29 Therefore Pilate came out to them and *said, “What accusation are you bringing against this Man?” 30 They answered and said to him, “If this Man were not [j]a criminal, we would not have handed Him over to you.” 31 So Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law.” The Jews said to him, “We are not [k]permitted to put anyone to death.” 32 This happened so that the word of Jesus which He said, indicating what kind of death He was going to die, would be fulfilled.

33 Therefore Pilate entered the Praetorium again, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, “You are the King of the Jews?” 34 Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about Me?” 35 Pilate answered, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed You over to me; what have You done?” 36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”

37 Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this purpose I have been born, and for this I have come into the world: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.” 38 Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?”

And after saying this, he came out again to the Jews and said to them, “I find no grounds at all for charges in His case. 39 However, you have a custom that I release one prisoner for you at the Passover; therefore do you wish that I release for you the King of the Jews?” 40 So they shouted again, saying, “Not this Man, but Barabbas.” Now Barabbas was a rebel.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's observations and insights

1. Having said what He had to say, Jesus went to the garden with his disciples.
2. This was the perfect place for an ambush as far as Judas was concerned.
3. The mob came with Judas to the garden with weapons to take charge of Jesus.
4. Why did Jesus ask the mob 'who do you seek'?
5. Why did He reveal to them who He was?
6. How come they didn't recognise Him?
7. Notice how John, the writer of the letter, points out that Judas is now standing with the mob and not the disciples.
8. What happened to make the mob draw back and fall to the ground?
9. Why did Jesus ask them a second time, 'who do you seek'?
10. And again, why does he answer, 'I am He'. Does His response mean anything?
11. Jesus makes provision for His disciples to not be part of the arrest.
12. The fulfilling of this prophecy from.....
13. Why did Peter act with violence and cut off the ear of Malchus?
14. Jesus was having none of it and told Peter to put his sword away – God's ways are not man's ways.
15. This trial had taken place yesterday in the garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus had surrendered to God with regards to drinking the cup.
16. They arrest Jesus, bind Him and take Him to the city.
17. Caiaphas seems to know the scriptures and the Prophets.
18. Who is the disciple John is reluctant to name?
19. Peter is tested regarding His confession and faithfulness, so why did Peter deny Jesus?
20. Why did Peter not leave the courtyard when he was questioned?
21. Caiaphas wants to know the facts and the details of the accusations of Jesus crimes.
22. Jesus says, 'I have given you enough truth on the streets and in the temple'.
23. Why did Jesus tell Him to go and ask those who had heard Him and what He had said.
24. Why did one of the Officers slap Jesus and reprimand Him?
25. Can you imagine that man, when he stands at the judgement to give God justification as to why he slapped God?

26. Peter, still hanging around in the courtyard, is quizzed again with a statement, 'are you sure you are not one of them'?
27. How do you feel emotionally about Peter's confession, 'I am not one of them!'?
28. How did Peter come to terms emotionally when He heard the rooster crow?
29. They desire to take Jesus into the arena to become 'the entertainment'!
30. Because of the pending Passover, the accusers decide to remain outside the arena.
31. Pilate is now in control of the situation.
32. Why were the mob evasive in response to Pilate?
33. Pilate is reluctant to get involved, but the Jews desire to put Jesus to death would only happen if Pilate passed judgement.
34. Jesus always knew how He would die.
35. Pilate asked the question 'are you the King of the Jews?'
36. Jesus responds, 'is this your question or the confession of other people?'
37. Pilate is on the fence, staying neutral, but asks Jesus to explain what He had done.
38. Jesus' response brings a kingdom revelation to Pilate about who He is, and where He came from.
39. 'My kingdom is not of this realm'. And earth is not the realm of the Christian either!
40. Jesus agrees with Pilate and says, 'I am a King. For this reason I came into the world, for this reason I was born. I came to speak the truth revealed by God.
41. Pilate wants to show Jesus mercy and release Jesus by using the Jewish custom, but they choose Barrabus.
42. 'True hearers know My voice'.
43. Why did Pilate ask Jesus, 'what is truth'?
44. Pilate again tries to sidestep judgement, but the accusers are having none of it!