

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 9TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

## JESUS IS BETRAYED (JOHN 18:1-14) "HE WENT OUT WITH HIS DISCIPLES"

Kidron Valley runs north and south to the east of Jerusalem, separating the city from the Mount of Olives. Jesus would have crossed a brook in order to make it to the Garden of Gethsemane.

- This stream running through the Kidron Valley would have been **red from the blood of a thousand Passover lambs, reminding Jesus of His sacrifice.**

## IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Luke 22:39 tells us that Jesus went with His disciples to the Garden to rest, pray, and meditate. While they kept falling asleep, we see Jesus' final prayer in the garden (Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22).

- The other Gospels show that **the Father had given a cup of wrath, and the Son, in obedience, will drink it.**

## HE WANTED TO BE FOUND

John tells us that Judas, the one who betrayed him, knew of the garden because Jesus **"had often met there with His disciples."**

- This shows that **Jesus was not hiding from anyone.** Judas knew exactly where to lead the mob of Roman soldiers, Chief Priests, and Pharisees.

## "WHO IS IT YOU ARE SEEKING?"

Jesus states, **"I am He,"** in response to who the mob sought, and **the crowd stepped back and fell to the ground.** We don't know much about what caused the soldiers to fall, and parallel verses in Matthew, Mark, and Luke do not offer much insight.

- This display of power shows us that **the men did not "take" Jesus away, but He gave Himself up.**

## SACRIFICIAL PROTECTION

Jesus protected His disciples spiritually and physically, fulfilling His declaration to the Father that **"not one of them is lost"** (17:12).

- When Jesus demanded that the soldiers **"let these men go,"** we see the same sacrificial plea acted out at the cross. **It was Jesus stepping in for us that freed us from the punishment of sin.**

## JESUS TRIED TO PREPARE THEM

Was Peter's reaction to Jesus' arrest admirable, courageous, or loyal? It was a rash decision that could have gotten him killed.

- John doesn't record the healing, but Jesus restores Malchus' ear (Luke 22:51). Peter could have tarnished the testimony of Christ by **giving the impression that His followers hate their enemies and wish to destroy them.**

## "AM I NOT TO DRINK THE CUP...?"

Matthew 26:53 records Jesus asking Peter, **"Do you think that I cannot call on my Father, and He will provide me here and now with more than twelve legions of angels?"**

- Jesus was in complete control of the situation and did not need Peter's protection. Jesus must **"drink the cup,"** meaning **He must go through the difficult experience that awaited Him.**

## PETER DENIES JESUS (JOHN 18:15-27)

### UNNAMED DISCIPLE TAGGING ALONG

Verse 15 tells us that "another disciple" was following Jesus and Peter.

- Most scholars agree that the other disciple with Peter was John, the author. Not only does John have a habit of referring to himself without speaking in the first person, but **his family had ties to the priesthood,** allowing both men into the courtyard.

## JESUS IS TAKEN TO HIGH PRIEST'S COURTYARD

We see this illegal mock trial that takes place with Annas, the father-in-law of the High Priest Caiaphas.

- Jesus wasn't being uncooperative by asking, **"Why do you ask me?"** (v21). He was calling for the application of Jewish Law, that **no charges could be brought about until witnesses had been heard.**

## PRIESTLY LINEAGE

Annas then sent Jesus to his son-in-law, Caiaphas, who was now the High Priest. Annas is the power behind the priestly throne. Since the position is held by family lineage, Annas has seen four sons and a son-in-law hold the office.

- John felt it important to remind us that **Caiaphas prophesied the substitutionary atonement of Jesus** (18:14; 11:49-50).

## PETER'S DENIAL

Peter was brought in by the doorkeeper and was warming himself by the fire. He was asked twice if he was a disciple of Jesus. The third came from a relative of Malchus, who was there in the garden.

- Did he hurl vulgarities when denying Jesus, or was the **"cursing and swearing"** (Mark 14:71) taking oaths dishonestly placing him under a curse?

## "IMMEDIATELY A ROOSTER CROWED."

Some scholars believe that the "rooster crowing" is a metaphor meaning that "before the night was over, before the roosters made their morning announcements," Peter denied Christ three times.

- At the rooster's crow, Peter broke down and wept (Mark 14:72). **The crowing was a sign of Jesus' control and sovereignty and a call to repentance.**

## NOT OF THIS WORLD (JOHN 18:28-40)

### JESUS IS TAKEN TO THE GOVERNOR'S HEADQUARTERS

The Jews led Jesus to Pontius Pilate, who was the Roman governor of Judea under Emperor Tiberius.

- Pilate had earned a violent and inflexible reputation among the Jews. He was under the Emperor's scrutiny and would eventually be pulled back to Rome after multiple complaints and suspicion of conspiracy.

## PILATE WISHES TO "WASH HIS HANDS" OF IT ALL

Pilate is already uneasy with the situation because his wife has warned him about a dream she had about Jesus (Matthew 27:19).

- Not wanting to be bothered with Jewish religious affairs, Pilate hoped to remove himself and have the Jewish leaders **"take him and judge him according to [their] law."**

## "... SO THAT JESUS' WORDS MIGHT BE FULFILLED ..."

Though Pilate wants nothing to do with the case, the Jews push it back on Rome to legally have Jesus killed. Roman law prohibited the Jews from carrying out the death penalty on their own for religious infractions.

- If killed by the Jews, He would be stoned to death, but **Jesus must be lifted up on a cross** (3:14).

## PILATE QUESTIONS JESUS

To Rome, a king meant a political rival, so Pilate's question of whether Jesus was the king of the Jews, was to find out if he was a rival or not.

- Jesus responded that **He is not a rival to an earthly kingdom because His Kingdom is not of this world.** Pilate mockingly says, "You are a king then?" **showing more fear for earthly kings than the Heavenly one.**

## "I WAS BORN FOR THIS ..."

Jesus tells Pilate the reason He was born. He said, **"[He came] into the world for this: to testify to the truth."**

- Jesus would reveal **the truth about humanity's sin, God's righteousness, and the coming judgment.** He was born to be led to slaughter, like a Passover lamb, to cover our sins.

## "NOT THIS MAN, BUT BARABBAS!"

Not only was Jesus innocent in that He was sinless and perfect, but He was found innocent by the Roman governor—yet He still went to the cross.

- Pilate thought he'd found his way out by letting the crowd release Jesus. **Instead of releasing Him, they condemned Him and released a terrorist and a murderer.**

## THE SIN OF JUDAS

- Mark 14:44 says that Judas had given them the sign of a kiss to signify who they were to seize and take away.
- In that day, a kiss on the cheek was a sign of deep affection and devotion.
- **We commit the sin of Judas when we show signs of affection and devotion to Jesus but our hearts are far from Him.**

## THE DENIAL OF JESUS

- Peter loved Jesus and devoted himself to Jesus, but in the heat of the moment, he denied Christ. Instead of picking on Peter for denying Jesus with words, we should instead evaluate our own lives.
- **We may not deny Him with words but do our actions reflect that we have denied His presence in our lives?**

## THE MISSED OPPORTUNITY OF PILATE

- It appears Pilate may not have been sincere when he asked Jesus, **"What is truth?"**
- **The way, the truth, and the life stood in front of him, and he couldn't see it.**
- **We can only find freedom through Jesus Christ through the sincere pursuit of truth. Seek and you find, and the truth will set you free** (Matthew 7:7; John 8:32).