

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 9TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

BETRAYED (JOHN 18:1-14) AFTER JESUS HAD SAID THESE THINGS...

Jesus had just spent the last hours with His disciples, teaching, encouraging, and praying. Now, He would set the stage for His arrest.

- **John notes that Judas knew the place. More importantly, Jesus knew that Judas and up to 200 men were coming after Him. He didn't run away because He knew His time had come.**

WENT OUT AND SAID...

Jesus completely disarms the mob by coming out to meet them. He was not caught off guard or surprised by their presence.

- **This is still true today. Those who will honestly seek Jesus will find Him. He isn't hiding from the culture. He seeks the lost. The culture is hiding from Jesus and He sends us out to share and serve.**

I AM HE...

With torches flying, armor clanking, and swords falling, these guys go down under the sheer power of Jesus' words. But He allows them to recover and reveals Himself again.

- **Jesus will reveal Himself again and again. He does not change Himself or His answers, but He will change us.**

JESUS ALONE

Jesus tells the mob to let His disciples go because He is the one they are looking for. Then, He has to rebuke Peter because he doesn't want them to take Jesus.

- **Everyone at the scene seems out of control, not understanding what was happening, except Jesus. Jesus was in complete control because it was His plan.**

ARRESTED AND TIED UP

Jesus' betrayal had finally come to its goal: He was arrested and taken for questioning.

- **We see Jesus here in bondage, being led by soldiers to answer to the high priest. It is important to remember that Jesus was making this journey out of love and obedience, not compulsion.**

DENIAL (JOHN 18:15-18) PETER FOLLOWED (FROM A DISTANCE)...

Matthew tells us that Peter followed from a distance and then stood outside. Even when he went inside, he warmed himself by their fire.

- When we follow Jesus from a distance, we invite trouble. When trouble comes, where do we go to get warm? Burying our heads in the sand is not the answer.

QUESTIONED (JOHN 18:19-24) DISCIPLES AND DOCTRINE

Annas, the former high priest, asked Jesus about His disciples and His teaching. Annas was probably looking for some juicy evidence for the upcoming trial.

- **Jesus said that He didn't have secrets because He had "spoken openly to the world." There were witnesses. Where are the witnesses today?**

A VIOLENT RESPONSE

Jesus speaks the truth and may have implicated Annas in an illegal interrogation. They had something like the 5th Amendment in place to protect the accused. Either way, the slap was unwarranted.

- Annas realized he would get no evidence of wrongdoing from Jesus, so he sent him to the current high priest.

DENIAL X3 (JOHN 18:25-27) DENIAL NUMBERS 2 AND 3

Peter is famous for this passage. He's standing around the fire, trying to stay warm with these servants, and denies his association with Jesus. Then, the rooster crows.

- **How many times have we failed? Peter heard the rooster. What makes us realize we have done the wrong thing?**

ACCUSED (JOHN 18:28-40) THEY DID NOT ENTER...

These guys were working hard to kill the Son of God, yet they were worrying about defiling themselves by stepping on Gentile territory.

- **How sad it is that "Christians" argue about minor things when people around them haven't heard the gospel or seen Jesus in their love for one another! Sometimes, we miss the big picture.**

WITHOUT A WARRANT

Pilate comes out and asks what charges they are bringing against Jesus. They respond with, "Well, He's a criminal." Pilate tells them to take care of it themselves, but they have lost the right to legal capital punishment. With no official charges brought, Pilate takes Jesus inside for a little one-on-one chat.

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?

Pilate straight forward asks Jesus if He is the king of the Jews. Jesus questions his motive. Pilate shares his situation and asks Jesus what He has done to upset His own nation.

- **Pilate was trying to find a way to validate the charges brought by the Jewish leaders. What he was about to hear was the Truth.**

KINGDOM AND TRUTH

Jesus shares that His Kingdom is not of this world and that His followers didn't fight against His arrest. He was born for this and to testify to the Truth. Pilate didn't understand.

- **Jesus came to unveil the Truth. This isn't truthfulness or honesty. Truth is what we see when we see God. Jesus is "the Truth."**

OPTIONS

Pilate had seen, met, and heard the Truth. Finding no reason to charge Him, he offered a solution: release a prisoner at Passover.

- **Pilate wanted a way out of his circumstances. Barabbas was guilty and wanted to be pardoned. The crowd wanted to execute an innocent man. Jesus is the one who made the choice.**

REVEALED

- Jesus went to the garden, knowing He would be arrested.
- **Jesus never denies who He is.**
- **As the one and only way to eternal life, Jesus doesn't hide Himself from the world. He continues to reveal Himself through His Word, the Holy Spirit, and the Church.**

KING

- Jesus is the King of kings.
- **Kings are meant to protect and lead their kingdom in God's will.**
- **Jesus took every step to the cross in obedience to the Father. His sacrifice on the cross would protect every follower from the penalty of sin. Jesus was living as a true King!**

TRIGGERS

- Peter heard the rooster and remembered.
- **In our lives, we will have triggers.**
- **Peter would forever remember that he was forgiven, that he should be humble, and that God would still do great things. Why do we hold on to old things when we have been restored? Will we continue to live in our failures or God's grace?**