

FINAL NOTES - THIS WEEK'S STUDY – 2/26-27/24 - John 18:1-40

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - Audio & notes from previous studies

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose) +13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York);

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=Tk5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,85309150746# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York);

Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746>

HAVING TROUBLE LOGGING INTO Zoom? <https://www.technipages.com/troubleshooting-zoom-login-errors>

OPENING PRAYER

Review from last week: (*John 17:1-26*) – *Jesus Prays for Himself!* – (1-5); *Jesus Prays for His Disciples!* - (vs. 6-19); *Jesus Prays for All Believers!* - (vs. 20-26)!

(John 18:1-40) – *Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane!* – (vs. 1-11); *Before the High Priest!* - (vs. 12-14); *Peter Denies Jesus!* - (vs. 15-18); *Jesus Questioned by High Priest!* – (vs. 19-24); *Peter Denies Twice More!* - (vs. 25-27); *In Pilate's Court!* - (vs. 28-38); *Taking the Place of Barabbas!* - (vs. 39-40)!

Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

Joh 18:1 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered.

- Now they are getting to the Mount of Olives, crossing the brook of Kidron, coming to a garden there called Gethsemane. The word means an olive press. Jesus used it often as a place that He would go and

spend the night with His disciples and it was a place that was familiar to them. So He crossed the brook, where was a garden, which He and His disciples entered.

Joh 18:2 And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples.

- **It was a place that was well known to all of the disciples.** It was a place that they went quite often. Notice the willingness of Jesus to move forward in laying down His life for us! He goes to Gethsemane, knowing it will be easy for the betraying Judas to find Him.

Joh 18:3 Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

- **The word “detachment” here in the Greek is *speria*, referring to a unit of Roman soldiers.** It could refer to as few as 200 men. Also it could refer to a unit of 600 soldiers, and even up to 1600 soldiers with 200 cavalry men. So even taking the smaller number, there was quite a number of soldiers, the temple police that came with the servants of the high priest and all to the garden to arrest Jesus, resulting in a group numbering into the hundreds.
- **They came with officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.** They probably figured that Jesus was going to try to hide somewhere and so they had lanterns and torches. There was a full moon because this was Passover, which took place on the third full moon after our new year. They may have thought that Jesus would be lurking somewhere, in a cave or hiding. They had lanterns and torches with them as well as their weapons.

Joh 18:4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?"

- **He did not try and hide someplace but He went right forth, met them,** just asking them, Whom are you looking for? *Whom are you seeking?* It was a beautiful picture of Jesus's strength, His courage, and His willingness to drink the cup, to go to the cross; to give His life for you and for me! (**Luk 19:10**) *for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

Joh 18:5 They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them.

- **The word “He” is in italics, which means that it was added by the translators.** Jesus just said, *I am.* He used that name of the eternal God, Yahweh. The **“I AM THAT I AM.”** When He spoke that name, I am, there was such force, such power that!

Joh 18:6 Now when He said to them, "I am (ego eimi) He," they drew back and fell to the ground.

- **Here is a manifestation of just that when He would utter the words, I am, so dynamic, so powerful that they all fell over backwards!** Here Jesus clearly ascribes deity to Himself at this moment of His arrest. These religious leaders who rejected him primarily because of His claim to be divine; His claim to be The Son of God. Now they not only hear Him ascribe deity to Himself once again in that environment, but then they experienced the divine power of Jesus, which was a witness to His claim. They have come to arrest Jesus of Nazareth and He revealed Himself as far more than that. So, they fell backwards to the ground! They did not fall down at His question, *Whom are you seeking?* But they did fall down at His name! (**Php 2:10**) *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth.*

Joh 18:7 Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Joh 18:8 Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,"

Joh 18:9 that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none."

- **Notice how that Jesus is more or less taking charge. He is ordering them.** They have come to arrest Him and all, but yet they recognize that He has authority. So He is ordering them, If you are seeking Me, then let these fellows go. Let them go their way. Again, the protection of Jesus for His disciples. Looking

out after them! You can arrest Me, that's part of the plan. But also a part of the plan is that they be set free. So "I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way."

- **The prophecy was, (Zec 13:7b) "Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered.** Jesus said, All of you are going to be offended this night because of Me. It was the scattering of the disciples. They fled.

Joh 18:10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword (machaira), drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

- **They had a detachment, (speira) of soldiers, quite a few, at the least 200.** Peter is ready to take them on! You may fault Peter for his denying the Lord under the pressure but hey, Peter is ready to take on the whole band! I mean, he is going to swing his sword! I will go down swinging! Notice, however, Peter used a carnal method to accomplish spiritual means.
- **I like Peter. I really like him. If we are going to go down, let us go down swinging.** At least let us put up an effort! So, he drew his sword *and cut off his right ear!*

Joh 18:11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"

- **Jesus returns the entire focus of the situation back on what should have always been the focus of the situation** before Peter's actions. Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews they arrested, Jesus and they bound Him, which would have never happened, except that Jesus allowed it!
- **John does not record for us the prayer of Jesus in the garden.** He, no doubt, felt that it was not necessary because the other gospels had already been written and were widely circulated. The other gospels all record for us the prayer of Jesus in the garden which He repeated three times, saying (**Mat 26:39b**) "*O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.*" The cup, referring to the cross.
- **If man can be saved by good works, then let us set out the criteria of works that they must do.** If man can be saved by being religious, let us set out the form of religion. If man can be saved by any other means, *let this cup pass from Me.* If it is possible. *nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will!* So now having resolved the issue, He says, "**Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?** Referring to the cross and His going to the cross. He is now committed to the will of the Father! (**Heb 5:7**) *who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear!*
- **As we are told in (Php 2:7,8) but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.** Submitting Himself to the will of the Father! (**Joh 6:38**) *For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me,* and (**Joh 4:34c**) *to finish His work.* **Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?**

Jesus Faces Annas and Caiaphas

Joh 18:12 Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him.

- **Bound Him. How foolish it was for them to bind Him.** It was totally unnecessary and those ropes or whatever, that is not what held Him. He could have easily had dispensed of whatever it was that they used to bind Him! As He said, (**Mat 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?* I am sure that the angels just wanted to enter the scene and really wipe them out! It was not the cords that held Jesus, it was His love for you and for me! He was bound by cords that were stronger than the ropes that they used! He was bound by His love for you in providing redemption for you!
- **It was His love for me that nailed Him to the tree, to die in agony for all my sin.** *It was for my own guilt and blame; the great Redeemer came. Willing to bear the shame of all my sin.* (Lyrics: *It Was His Love For Me*). It was His love for me that bound Him. He was committed now to the will of the Father! He was going willingly! He could have disappeared, which He had done on other occasions when they prematurely were going to try and force Him to be king. But He was committed now to the Father's will to go to the cross and provide redemption for us!

Joh 18:13 And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year.

- **Why does God the Father allow His Son to go through the two trials of Annas and of Caiaphas?** The trial on the part of the religious community and then a trial on the part of the secular community? Basically it was an examination of the Passover Lamb, which in the Old Testament, the lamb had to be without spot or blemish. God allows religious man and the Gentile world to do all they could do to try and find a fault or a flaw that would disqualify Jesus as the Lamb of God. Who came to die on the cross, to provide us with the forgiveness of sins. He allowed both the opportunity, and they are both going to strike out because He as the Lamb of God, is without spot and without blemish! So the trials occur as they are recorded here. Annas was supposed to find the charges against Jesus and then those charges were to go to Caiaphas, because only Caiaphas could then approach Rome.
- **Annas was the high priest from the year A.D. 6 to the year 15.** He was a Sadducee; a materialist and he became an extremely wealthy man. He made his wealth by setting up little booths in what was known as the Gentile court of the temple, profiting enormously in the people's desire to make their sacrifices! So the profit was going to Annas. It was his merchandising scheme. That was the area that Jesus came into and He drove out those that were selling the sacrifices. Those that were changing the money. He drove them out and so Annas had it in for Jesus, because Jesus had upset his businesses. Annas was determined to get rid of Him.
- **In about the year A.D. 15, Annas came into disfavor with the Roman government** and was deposed by them. He had five sons and each of his sons served as high priest for a period of time. But at that time, it was so corrupted they would use bribery and they would purchase the office. Much like in one period of the Catholic church when the office of the Pope was put up for bid and it was sold to the highest bidder.
- **Over a period of time, all five of his sons had served as high priest but each of them came into disfavor.** So Caiaphas had married Annas's daughter and was now the high priest appointed by Rome. However, the Jews did not really recognize Rome's appointments and they still recognized Annas as the high priest. So they brought Jesus first to Annas and John tells us of the trial there. It really was not very much before they sent Him over to Caiaphas. So they brought Him bound unto Annas first, he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was the high priest.

Joh 18:14 Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

- **That was Caiaphas who was the appointed high priest and he was the one who earlier,** as they were saying, What are we going to do with this fellow? All of the people are listening to Him! He said, *(Joh 11:50) nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish?*

Peter Denies Jesus

Joh 18:15 And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple (John the writer of this gospel). Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest.

- **Another disciple. Who was that other disciple?** Most commentators accept that it was John. But how could John know the high priest and how could John have access? Where would the connection be?
- **Because John was from Galilee. John's father, Zebedee, was a very prosperous fishing magnate.** In those days, fish was an important part of the diet. It was impossible, of course, to keep the fish fresh. The main source for fish was the sea of Galilee. So, they would catch the fish in the Galilee, salting them to preserve them. Then they would ship them down to Jerusalem. It is quite possible that John was a merchandiser, bringing the fish to Jerusalem, perhaps delivering them to very rich high priest, Annas.
- **Another disciple. John really never did refer to himself much by name.** But he referred to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved and here the other disciple. When he outran Peter as they went to the tomb after the resurrection, John records they both ran together but the other disciple outran Peter, showing us that he was a faster runner, but he said he stayed outside and Peter went in; but John did not name himself in the record. He just referred to himself as the other disciple or the disciple whom Jesus loved. *Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest.* He followed right on in because he was known to them.

Joh 18:16 *But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in.*

- The fact that earlier in the record, John, only, knew the name of the servant, Malchus, the servant of the high priest, which indicates a familiarity not only with the high priest but with the household, the servants of the high priest. So he brought Peter in.

Joh 18:17 *Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."*

- It sounds like she knew that John was a disciple, saying. *You are not also one of this Man's disciples, are you?* Are you also one of the disciples? Peter denied saying *I am not!*

Joh 18:18 *Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself.*

The High Priest Questions Jesus

Joh 18:19 *The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine.*

Joh 18:20 *Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing.*

- There is no secret conspiracy. Everything I have said, I have said openly.

Joh 18:21 *Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said."*

- According to the law, they had sort of the Fifth Amendment kind of a clause in their law where a prisoner could not be asked a question that would bring about self-incrimination. It was illegal for him to ask Jesus this question because it would require self-incrimination. Jesus is pointing out the fact that it is not a legal question to ask Me. If you want to know the story, ask the witnesses. According to the law, the witnesses are supposed to come and bear witness of what they heard. The prisoner himself could not be forced to testify against himself. So Jesus was calling to him a point of order concerning the law of Moses.

Joh 18:22 *And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?"*

Joh 18:23 *Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?"*

- Here is a totally illegal process taking place! Jesus, being just and righteous, concerned in true righteous judgment, is upset with this irregularity according to their own laws. So He is standing up and challenging them

Joh 18:24 *Then Annas sent bound to Caiaphas the high priest.*

- That was about all that was done there. They then sent Him over to Caiaphas.

Peter Denies Jesus Again

Joh 18:25 *Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not!" (2nd time Peter denying)*

Joh 18:26 *One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?"*

Joh 18:27 *Peter then denied again (third time); and immediately a rooster crowed.*

- Peters' denial is mentioned in all four gospels. It is there for a lesson for all of us. There are issues involved led directly to the denial:
 - ✓ **First of all; Self-boasting! Peter is boasting in himself.** Lord, I will lay down my life for You. That is boasting in himself.
 - ✓ **Arguing with the Lord! The second was his arguing with the Lord.** Know this, if you ever find yourself in an argument with the Lord, you are wrong. He thought he knew himself better than the Lord knew him. He was indignant when Jesus said, You are going to deny me three times before the rooster

crows. Peter responded, Lord, I would never deny You. I will lay down my life for You. Boasting in himself and arguing with the Lord. **Those are a couple of issues** that can get us into trouble.

- ✓ **Sleeping when told to pray!** Next we find Peter sleeping in the garden when the Lord told him to pray. “When Jesus had come back to the disciples, He said, Peter, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, lest ye enter into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak” (*Mat 26:40,41*). Sleeping when you should be praying.
- ✓ **Following Jesus at a distance!** The **fourth thing** that we see is when Jesus was arrested and led to the house of Caiaphas, the high priest, we read, (*Mat 26:58a*) *But Peter followed Him at a distance* to the high priest's courtyard. Attempting to follow Jesus at a distance is another thing that can lead to denial. If you are going to follow Jesus, stick just as close as you can! The closer the better. Do not try and follow Him from afar off.
- ✓ **Warming at the enemy's fire!** Then finally, where was he when he denied the Lord? He was warming himself at the enemy's fire! Be careful about trying to find warmth at the enemy's fire. Sometimes Christians seek to do that. They seek to go back into the worldly things to find a little warmth, a little excitement. They are in the wrong place, and being in the wrong place can often lead to denial.
- ✓ **So with Peter, you can sort of follow the course that began with self-confidence, boasting of himself.** So when Peter said, “Lord, why can't I follow You? I will lay down my life for You. Jesus said, Will you lay down your life for Me? Most assuredly, I say to you, the rooster shall not crow till you have denied Me three times.

Jesus Before Pilate

Joh 18:28 Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning (4th watch). But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover.

- **John tells us nothing of the trial before Caiaphas.** The other gospels tell us that Jesus was brutally treated; how that He was mocked; how that they put a sack over His head and began to hit Him, saying Prophecy, who is it that hit You? Finally Caiaphas said, (*Mat 26:63b,64a,65, 66*) *Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God! [64a]" Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. [65] Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! [66] What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."* Then they took Him over to the Roman court of Pilate in order that they might get the sentence of death. John leaves out all of that trial before Caiaphas.
- **The whole purpose was to develop charges against Jesus that could be taken to the Roman government.** The charges before the Roman government could not be charged on religious grounds. Rome did not care. They had to be charges of some kind of insurrection of Jesus against Rome. There were false charges, they said that Jesus was advocating a tax revolt. He was teaching that they should not give taxes to Caesar. That is wrong! They tried to trap Jesus on that issue. Remember they said, Is it lawful for us to give taxes to Caesar? Jesus said, Show me a coin. And He said, (*Mar 12:16,17*) *So they brought it. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's. [17] And Jesus answered and said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they marveled at Him.*
- **But now they are saying He was advocating not paying taxes. Then then they were saying that He was an insurrectionist.** He was going to rise up against Rome, that He was claiming to be the King of the Jews and was going to lead a revolt of the Jews against the Roman authority. Those were the charges that they decided to bring against Jesus when they brought Him to Pilate. So “they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the hall of judgment,”
- **It was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover.** This is one of those cases where these guys are doing such a totally corrupt thing! You cannot imagine anything more corrupt than this. They are conspiring to see a man put to death who has not done anything wrong. It was wicked, vile, evil! Yet, they are careful not to go into the Roman court because this is Passover day actually, and you are not to be where there is any leaven and it is possible that there was leaven within the court because the Romans did not care about the bread not having leaven. So religiously just keeping the letter of the law, and yet so totally corrupt!
- **It is interesting how corrupt religious people can sometimes be.** How they are so careful in the little religious things. As Jesus said, (*Mat 23:24*) *Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!* This

is so true of religious people. They are so interested in some of the little minute details of the religious traditions and yet they violate so completely real judgment and real honesty and integrity.

Joh 18:29 Pilate then _ and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?"

Joh 18:30 They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you."

- **There was no love between Pilate and the religious people.** Pilate had been in trouble with them before. They had complained to Caesar concerning Pilate. When Pilate first became the governor, he entered Jerusalem with his soldiers, having shields with a little image of Caesar on them. The religious leaders said, "We will not let you come into the city unless you take the image of Caesar off of the shields. Pilate refused to do it. There was quite a confrontation. Pilate went back to Caesarea and they followed him back arguing all the way. They were about 200 of them and Pilate sort of threatened them, saying, if you do not like it, I will kill you. They all just held out their necks and they said, Go ahead, slice them. He was so moved by that that he could not just kill innocent people like that. So he gave in and they were not killed. They took away the imaged shields when they went to Jerusalem. That was one issue and it was reported to Caesar, who was upset over Pilate's handling of it.
- **There were a couple of other issues where Pilate came into disagreement and disfavor** with the religious leaders, which they reported to Caesar. So Pilate was standing on very tenuous ground with Caesar. That is why in the next chapter when he is arguing with them to let Jesus go, they said, If you let Him go, you are not Caesar's friend. Ultimately, Pilate was recalled upon the complaints of the religious leaders back to Rome and before he got back there, the Roman Caesar at the time died and so he disappeared from history. There was bad blood between Pilate and the religious leaders.

Joh 18:31 Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,"

- **In other words, I am washing my hands. I have nothing to do with it.** You go ahead and judge Him according to your laws.
- **Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death. They are revealing their hand! They are not bringing Jesus to be tried! They are bringing Jesus in order to get a sentence of death.** They are not interested in a trial before Pilate. All they are wanting is a sentence of death against Jesus. The power of capital punishment has been taken from the Jews. Not too long ago before this incident, they had lost the power of capital punishment. They could have stoned Jesus, but then they would have had to answer to Rome, so they did not want stoning. Also, they wanted a cruel, torturous death! They wanted to see Him suffer. They wanted to see Him crucified, which is one of the most torturous means of putting a person to death. They wanted the sentence to come from Rome because the Roman form of execution was crucifixion. They said, "***It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.***"
- **At that point, Pilate becomes fully aware of the manipulation that is going on all around him.** He was savvy enough as a leader, and anybody could look at this and realize I should just turn on my heels right now, walk back into the Praetorium, shut the door, pulling the plug on everything that the level of manipulation that is going on here in in this situation! But he did not do that!

Joh 18:32 that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

- **Jesus said, "(Joh 12:32-33) And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."** [33] ***This He said, signifying by what death He would die.*** That is, being lifted up on a cross. Crucifixion! They are wanting death by crucifixion! (***Psa 22:16***) *For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; (***Zec 12:10***) *"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced.**
- **It tells us here in the in the word there is a divine overruling in all of this.** Jesus has agreed to drink the cup the Father has, for that cup has to be crucifixion, bearing our sins, not being stoned to death

My Kingdom Is Not of This World

Joh 18:33 Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You (emphatic) the King of the Jews?"

- **Pilate was outside talking to the Jews.** Jesus was inside.
- **Are You (emphatic) the King of the Jews?** Pilate wants to hear in Jesus' own words that He is the King of the Jews.

Joh 18:34 Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?"

- **Is this a sincere question? Do you really want to know?** Is it an honest question? Do you desire to really know this? Or have others told you? Is this just something that you have heard? Is that what they are saying out there?

Joh 18:35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?"

- **Pilate is interrogating Jesus, trying to find out just what is going on here.** *What have You done? Why are they so upset? Why are they so angry? Why are they wanting to see You crucified?*
- **Am I a Jew? Pilate is already upset with what he is in the middle of.** He knows this is not right. He knows he is being played and he is frustrated at this thing that has been thrown on his lap as a busy man and this high religious season of the Jews. He takes his frustration out on Jesus, over being manipulated by the Jewish religious leaders!

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of (ek-out of) this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

- **Jesus is now affirming that He is a King, that He has a kingdom, but it is not of this world.** I am not forming a conspiracy against Rome! I am not trying to conscript men to rebel against the Roman authority. My kingdom is a spiritual kingdom! It is not of this worldly system! It is not a material kingdom that I am going to establish at the present time. I am going to establish a spiritual kingdom. It will be in the hearts of men, the transformed hearts of men! It is not of this world!

Joh 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then (So then, You are a king!)" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born (preexisting in another kingdom), and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

- **Pilate therefore said unto him, Are You then a king? Jesus answered, You said it!** To this end I was born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth! Everyone that is of the truth hears My voice. We are here today because of what He has done! He came into our lives! He opened our eyes spiritually! He opened our hearts! He changed our lives! When we stand around His throne, all of the glory is going to be His! All of us will be throwing our crowns in one direction - to Him! And everyone who is of the truth hears My voice! Are you hearing His voice right now?
- **Yes, I am a King! This is why I was born! (Isa 9:6-7) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. [7] Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom.** Yes, I am a King! "To this end I was born, for this cause I came into the world to establish a kingdom. To establish the kingdom of God in the hearts and in the lives of those who will submit to His authority!
- **So as a believer, you who have received Jesus Christ as your Lord, you have surrendered your life to Jesus.** You said, I want You to take over my life. I want You to be the Lord of my life. You have entered the kingdom. You are a part of the kingdom of God. This spiritual kingdom that Jesus came to establish. My kingdom is not of the world. It is a spiritual kingdom. He rules in the hearts of those who have heard His voice and have responded to His call. It is so good! It is so wonderful to be a part of the kingdom of Jesus Christ!

Joh 18:38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all."

- **Pilate said to Him, What is truth!** Jesus had mentioned, "I came to bear witness of the truth that every one that is of the truth hears my voice." What is truth? This may have been said with great cynicism

because for years, centuries, the Greek philosophers had searched for truth. They had produced many concepts of truth. But their concepts were argued out by newer concepts. Until finally the age of philosophy was dying because they had despaired. They figured that truth did not exist. That there was no universal truth. And knowing that the philosophers had despaired to discover truth, Pilate said cynically, What is truth?

- **Jesus had earlier said, (Joh 14:6) I am the way, the truth, and the life.** Here is Pilate asking the truth, What is truth? Jesus is truth! Over and over again we read through the gospel of John where Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say unto you." He came to bring us the truth of God. What is the truth of God?
- **The truth of God is that God so loves you in spite of your rebellion.** In spite of your foolishness. In spite of your carelessness, God so loves you that He sent His only begotten Son to take your sins and to die in your place, that if you will believe in Him, you might have eternal life. That is truth! That is God's truth! Pilate did not wait for an answer. He figured there was no answer.
- **He went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.** The man's innocent. I do not find any fault in Him. It is interesting how that God was protecting the witness of the innocence of Jesus. When **Judas** brought back the money, he said, (**Mat 27:4a**) I have sinned by betraying innocent blood. **Pilate's witness, Jesus is innocent.** Pilate was in the process of judging Jesus, his wife sent a message to him and said, (**Mat 27:19**) While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him. The witness that Jesus was just. When **the thieves were hanging** beside Him on the cross, (**Luk 23:39-41**) Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." [40] But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? [41] And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong. Further testimony to the innocence of Jesus.
- **Now the testimony of Pilate!** "I find no fault in Him at all! Jesus is not a threat to Rome. He is not a threat to you! Jesus is talking about things I cannot even get my mind around. But He is doing it with a dignity I have never experienced before in my life. He is talking about a Kingdom I do not understand. He is talking about a kingship that I have never seen. It is unraveling me as He speaks to me about it!
- **If justice is to be served, at that point Pilate should have brought down the gavel and said, Case dismissed!** He has tried Jesus! He has examined Him! His conclusion is clear to Him. Jesus is innocent and ought to be released! But he does not do it. Pilate does not do it!
- **The right time to always do the right thing is the first time I am aware of what the right thing is!** If I know what the right thing to do is in a situation and I do not do it, then it becomes even harder to do the right thing than next time. It will never be easier to do the right thing than the first time I need to do the right thing! If I do not, it just gets harder and harder! Pilate does not do the right thing here. He keeps the door open. He should have closed it! But he did not and he is going to end up with his name being mud in human history. It all starts right there! He could have stopped the manipulation. He could have stood there and said this is the right thing! I am out, I find no fault in Him at all! It is done!

Joh 18:39 "But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"

- **Pilate has moved from doing the right thing by not ending it here.** Now it is no longer about right and wrong. Now it has become complicated and we are as prone as well to do as Pilate does, trying to fix the dilemma by means of a political solution! He tries to find the solution that is going to please everyone, but anybody that ever tries to find a solution to Jesus, to define a Jesus that satisfies everyone, is going to be absolutely unsuccessful!
- **Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?** Pilate is in trouble. When he gives a choice to the Jewish religious leaders, these religious men that are supposed to care so much about God, of a choice between Jesus the King of the Jews, it never enters his mind that they would ever call for Barabbas. Yet, that is exactly what they do! At this point he was intent upon releasing Jesus, but he fails to do that. Now under the banner of political expediency, everything keeps on going downhill for him. It is a great illustration of how much harder it becomes to do the right thing once I have failed to do the right thing over and over again. Here he is, searing his conscience and this entire process. So Pilate fails miserably, ending up, as we know from the other gospels, releasing Barabbas instead of Jesus!

Joh 18:40 Then they all cried again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

- **This shows us how low they have gotten!** Here is Jesus, who has done nothing wrong! The Bible said He went about doing good, healing all manner of sicknesses and all. Yet, when given a choice, Jesus, or Barabbas, they said, Release unto us Barabbas! We wonder how people can be so hardened! How can people be so foolish as to choose Barabbas over Jesus? A man who was known to be a criminal, a robber! A man who was dangerous to the public; dangerous to be out on the streets. Yet they had rather take their chances with him than with Jesus!
- **Release unto us Barabbas!** (*Mar 15:7*) *And there was one named Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion. (Act 3:14-15) But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, [15] and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.*
- **That is always a difficult position to be in when some foolish person in the crowd is trying to push you into that which you know in your heart to be wrong.** It is always difficult. They seem to always be there. Those that are leading a person downward. Those who seem to have no interest in the gospel or in Jesus Christ or in their own destiny. They are always there. And they are now seeking His death.
- **They are seeking to force Pilate to decide that in his heart, he knows is wrong.** So he is upset with them. They have always been upset with him. So it is a lot of pressure and all that is going on in these chapters, in this interchange between the Jews. It will continue on into chapter nineteen as Jesus will be on the cross!
- **If justice is to be served, at that point Pilate should have brought down the gavel and said, Case dismissed!** He has tried Jesus! He has examined Him! His conclusion is clear to Him. Jesus is innocent and ought to be released! But he does not do it. Pilate does not do it!
- **Remember! The right time to always do the right thing is the first time I am aware of what the right thing is!**
- **And remember that “Jesus paid it all!”**

SUMMARY:

Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane! – Before the High Priest! - Peter Denies Jesus! - Jesus Questioned by High Priest! – Peter Denies Twice More! - In Pilate’s Court! - Taking the Place of Barabbas!

CLOSING SONG:

JESUS PAID IT ALL – Elvina Hall; John Grape – Gaither/Ivan Park (4:38/4:41)

I hear the Savior say, Thy strength indeed is small; Child of weakness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all. Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow. For nothing good have I Whereby Thy grace to claim I’ll wash my garment white in the blood of Calvary’s Lamb. Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow. And when before the throne I stand in Him complete, Jesus died my soul to save, My lips shall still repeat Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow. He washed it white as snow.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Study John Chapter 19! The King on the Cross!

Pastor Jack Hibbs gives opening prayer in Congress, 1/30/24:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_AhqKMim-U

Congressional Response Letter to The Honorable Mike Johnson dated 2/15/2024 – 2 websites showing the letter:

<https://www.joemygod.com/2024/02/dozens-of-democrats-send-johnson-scathing-letter-for-inviting-pro-insurrection-hate-pastor-to-give-invocation/>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/dems-file-complaint-that-speaker-johnson-is-using-christian-nationalists-as-guest-chaplains/ar-BB1il2TC#>