

# John 18

## John 18.1-11 – The arrest of Jesus

**V1** – Jesus and the apostles left the Upper Room and crossed a small creek or wadi (dry creek) called Kidron and entered a garden there

-**What is the name of the garden?** Gethsemane

-Events omitted by John: **Read Luke 22:39-46**

-**Why omitted?** The single purpose of John: events causing people to believe in Jesus

**V2** – They had used this small garden often for meetings, etc.

-Judas knew this place

**V3** – **How did Judas identify (or greet) Jesus initially (in Matthew)?** With a kiss and “Hail Rabbi” (*Matthew 26:49*)

-**What soldiers were there?** Roman and Jewish

-Bro. Woods: to show that both Jews and the Gentiles were guilty in the death of Jesus

-**Reasons for lanterns and torches?** In case Jesus was hiding

**V4** – **Is the Lord caught by surprise?** No

-**Did Jesus have any force at his command?** Yes, *Matthew 26:53* - twelve legions of angels at his disposal

-A legion is 6000 = 72,000 angels

-So Jesus allowed himself to be arrested

**V5** – **Significance of “Jesus the Nazarene”?** The Jews did not want to call him Christ

-**Whose side was Judas on?** The soldiers

**V6** – **What caused them to fall to the ground?** His bold answer, his awe-inspiring demeanor (face, etc.)

-We often feel a sense of awe in the presence of a great person (president etc.)

-This writer had a grammar teacher at David Lipscomb University who commanded respect whenever she entered the classroom

-She had a reputation for greatness that preceded her; the class would automatically get quiet when she entered, out of respect for her

-Maybe the ones at the front fell back and made the others fall

**V7** – Jesus repeated the question

**V8** – Jesus stated again that he was the one they were after

-**What request did he make?** That the apostles be allowed to leave

-Remember *John 10:12-13* – Jesus was the good shepherd, not a hireling; he was deeply interested in the lives of his disciples

**V9** – *John 17:12* – A fulfillment of the words of Jesus

-**Why was it better for the apostles not to be arrested here?** It could have destroyed their faith

(they were not ready yet for such trials)

**V 10 – Who acted here?** Peter, probably aiming for the neck or head of Malchus and missed and got his ear

-This is so characteristic of Peter before the Day of Pentecost (very unpredictable behavior)

**V 11** – Excellent comments by Bro. Guy N. Woods: Our only weapon is the gospel – we do not spread the borders of the kingdom by bloodshed

-Also: Concerning psychological schemes, ornate church buildings, or whatever we use in place of the gospel, we will “die” by that thing

-Jesus was ready for the crucifixion

## **John 18.12-18**

**V 12** – “Binding of Jesus” – strange, unless they feared that he had extraordinary powers

-Some today may have studied Rasputin, a magician in Russia just before Russian Revolution and his influence on the Czar's family

**V 13** – Annas had been deposed by the Romans, but Jews still considered him to be the high priest

-But his son-in-law Caiaphas was technically the high priest

**V 14** – A reference to *John 11:49-50*

-A hard-hearted person (situation ethics)

-An ironic prophecy

**V 15 – Who followed Jesus?** Peter and another disciple

-**Another disciple?** Probably John (also suggested: Nicodemus or Joseph of Arimathea)

-Best guess: See *John 20:2*, the Apostle John, because he came from a very wealthy and influential family

**V 16** – John arranged for Peter to be let inside

**V 17** – The first denial

-**What happened?** He was asked if he was a disciple of Jesus

-**Answer?** “I am not”

**V 18** – Between midnight and dawn (April and cool temperatures)

-Notice: Peter was in the company of the Lord's enemies and warming himself at their fire!

-Let us remember that evil or weak companions can corrupt us

-See *1 Cor. 15.33*

## **John 18.19-24** – Questioning by Annas

**V 19** – Questions about his disciples and his teaching

**V 20 – Did Jesus make any statements about his disciples?** No  
-**Why?** He was still trying to protect them (notice the use of “I” in v 20).  
-**Characteristic of Jesus’ teaching?** Always public

**V 21** – Anna was implying that his doctrine was hard to understand

**V 22** – One of the officers didn’t like the way Jesus answered  
-The same thing happened to Paul (*Acts 23:1-3*)

**V 23** – Jesus challenged the person to defend himself with reason

**V 24** – Jesus was sent to the next inquiry

### **John 18.25-27**

**V 25** – Peter again denied Jesus  
-The first two questions anticipated negative answers

**V 26** – Anticipated a positive answer

**V 27** – He had denied Jesus three times

### **John 18.28-32**

-John almost ignored the Jewish trial - he devotes much time to giving the details of the Roman trial

-**Why would John have spent so much time on details of the Roman trial?** This was being written late in First Century, and Christians had to deal with Romans (the Jewish threat was basically over, as of 70 A.D.)

-Also, John was probably one of few witnesses and was highly respected

**V 28** – Praetorian means "Hall of Judgment," the official residence of Pilate, the Roman governor

-**What was the time of day?** Early, probably 6-7 a.m.

-**Why did the Jews not want to enter the Roman court?** They would be defiled for Passover  
-Ironic: They wouldn’t enter the house of a Gentile, but saw nothing wrong with bringing false witness against Jesus, the savior of the world!

**V 29** – Pilate came out to the Jews to accommodate them

-He asked for the charge against Jesus

**V 30** – **Characterize their answer?** Very shy

-Not a direct answer (possibly a manipulation of Pilate)

**V 31** – Pilate seems to have seen through their shyness: “You take care of your own problems”

- Acts 18:14-16* - similar response from Gallio concerning Jewish charges against Paul
- What was the answer of the Jews?** We do not have authority to put one to death
- Interesting: the woman taken in adultery
- Also, the death of Stephen was an illegal action
- It is not hard to see why the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D. (the stubbornness of the Jews)
- They were very rebellious people

**V 31b** – The Jews knew Pilate had seen their shyness

- They revealed their real reason and needed permission to put Jesus to death

**V 32** – **What had Jesus said about his death?** *Matthew 20:19, John 12:32* – crucifixion

- Death at the hand of the Romans, not the Jews

## **John 18.33-40**

**V 33** – John brings out the divine royalty of Jesus – This is in contrast to Pilate

- Probably asked in sarcastic manner
- The first question in all four gospels?** *Matthew 27:11, Mark 15:2, Luke 23:3*
- Emphatic – You are king of the Jews? This man?
- Message: Jesus obviously didn't look like a king

**V 34** – Very interesting: “Are you asking this from a Roman point of view or Jewish point of view?”

- If a "Jewish king," Pilate couldn't care less – it would have been a religious matter
- If from the Roman point of view, it would have been treason

**V 35** – **Characterize Pilate's reply?** Scornful

- But basically he wanted the Roman answer to the question

**V 36** – **Was the kingship of Christ a threat to Roman government?** No

- Will Christians ever be a military threat to the government?** No, we change the hearts of people (a threat in that sense only)
- It is bothersome to this writer to see the national flag in the auditorium where Christians worship
- There is to be a clear distinction between the kingdom of God and the civil government
- Read *Gospel Advocate Commentary, John, page 387***

**V 37** – **Had Jesus denied being a king?** No, just narrowed down the word (not a political king)

- Why did Jesus come into the world?** To bear truth

**V 38** – **Two ways to interpret Pilate's question:** 1. A sincere heart searching for the truth, 2. A cynic

- “Why bother, since you can't know truth anyway?”
- Did Pilate stay around for an answer?** No, which indicates #2 above
- He must have seen Jesus as a harmless (but crazy) man, certainly not worthy of death
- Pilate's conclusion?** Jesus was innocent

**V 39** – Pilate was good at insulting people

-**“Release the King of the Jews?”** He stuck the dagger in and turned it (also with the sign on the cross)

**V 40 – Who did the Jews want released?** Barabbas (a robber)

-*Mark 15:7* – Barabbas was an insurrectionist, had revolted against Romans, and murdered also  
-Jews would have admired that?

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