

John 18

Jesus Arrested.

Three emphases. 1 The voluntary nature of His sufferings.

2 The Divine Plan being fulfilled.

3 The Majesty displayed in His sufferings.

1 Jesus and the disciples go to the garden of Gethsemane.

2, 3 Judas guides the authorities there with unnecessary weapons to take the Lamb of God.

4, 5 He surrenders voluntarily.

6 His authority stuns them.

7-9 He sought the release of the disciples so that He would lose none of them during His life on earth.

10 Impetuous Peter seeks to defend his Lord with carnal weapons.

11 A gentle reproof for Peter. The cup means the experience of suffering and death under the wrath of God.

12-14 He is brought before His Jewish judges Annas and Caiaphas who we meet in John 11:49-51.

15-18 John gains access to the High Priest's courtyard, Peter outside. John brings him in where he is questioned. He denies that he is a disciple of Jesus.

19-21 The trial begins. The Lord testifies He has openly taught the people.

22 He is struck unjustly by an official.

23 He questions the reason for the blow. Turning the other cheek does not exclude protesting against injustice providing it is done with calm dignity.

24 From Annas to Caiaphas.

25-27 Confused and alone Peter denies his Lord again and again. Fulfilled the prediction of the Lord in John 13:38.

28 They take Him before Pilate early in the morning. Notice their shameful hypocrisy.

29-31 They disclose to Pilate the reason they have brought Him to the Roman governor. He alone had the power to sentence Him to death.

32 Jesus had prophesied that He would be lifted up on a Roman cross to die.

33 Pilate's question. Are you The King of the Jews?

34, 35 Jesus asks; why this question? In one sense He was King, in another He was not, i.e. He was not guilty of sedition.

36 He explains that His Kingdom is not like this world's but is spiritual and heavenly. He would not have His servants fight. The Kingdom of God is never to be extended or defended by force of arms. All wars in the Name of Christ are unlawful.

37 'Yes I am a King, that is why I am here'. And to testify to The Truth- The gospel of His grace. The saved listen to, and receive His words.

38 Pilates ignorant reply. But he declares the Prisoner Not Guilty.

39 He offers to release the Prisoner.

40 They prefer the criminal Barabbas.