



BETRAYED (John 18)

Today we discover why God allowed the Sinless Savior to be **BETRAYED** by a deceitful disciple and arrogant authorities.

* All Scripture is from the CSB (Christian Stand Bible) unless otherwise noted.

John 18:1-2 ¹ After Jesus had said these things, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. ² Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because **Jesus often met there with his disciples.**

During Passover more than 200,000 lambs were slain and drained from the temple altar down into the **Kidron Valley**.¹ Jesus and His disciples would have crossed over these sacrificial fluids to get to this **garden**.² John doesn't name this place, but it was called "Gethsemane" (Matt. 26:36; Mark 14:32), meaning "olive press" - on the west shoulder of the Mount of Olives, overlooking Jerusalem.³

Jesus often met there with his disciples, likely to have a place of peace and quiet in the evenings. Luke says Jesus and his followers spent every night that week on the Mount of Olives, likely at this very spot (Lk 21:37 & 22:39).⁴ So, Judas **knew the place**, as he had been there many times with Jesus, even that week.

John 18:3 ³ So Judas took a company of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees and came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

The crew assembled to arrest Jesus, consisted of both Jews & Gentiles. The **company of soldiers** is the Greek term for a **Roman cohort** (600 men), but it could also refer to a smaller band such as a *maniple* or detachment of about 200 soldiers.⁵ It is not likely that John was counting heads. His point? To show much more force was brought than what was needed. There were **officials from the chief priests** - likely temple police force. Dr. Luke notes other elders were present as well, likely some of the Sanhedrin (Luke 22:52) who ultimately convict Jesus of blasphemy. "*They bring **torches** and **lanterns** to search for the Light of the World; they bring **weapons** against the Prince of Peace.*"⁶

🌟 **Gary Burge**: "*John's portrait is clear: The entire world—both Jew and Gentile—has come against Jesus.*"⁷

Jesus was not running *from* the battle, but running *to* it.

John 18:4-6 ⁴ Then **Jesus, knowing everything that was about to happen to him**, went out and said to them, "Who is it that you're seeking?" ⁵ "Jesus of Nazareth," they answered. "**I AM** [he]," Jesus told them. Judas, who betrayed him, was also standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus told them, "**I AM** [he]," they stepped back and fell to the ground.

The disciples of Jesus must have been SHOCKED to see **Judas**...one of their closest friends...was the betrayer. The Synoptics (i.e. "seeing together" - Matthew, Mark, & Luke) all recall Judas kissing Jesus on the cheek, but John chooses not to give much face-time to the betrayer, and keeps his focus on Jesus. * Note where John mentions Judas as the betrayer (John 6:71; 12:4; 13:2, 26, 29; 17:12; 18:2, 3, 5).⁸ John chooses not mention 1) Jesus' prayer time asking the Father to remove the cup (Mk 14:35-36), 2) the apostles falling asleep, nor 3) Jesus healing a man's ear (Lk 22:51).

But John the apostle DOES share several significant insights that none of the other Synoptics (i.e. Matthew, Mark, & Luke) mention - like this - **When Jesus told them, "I AM [he]," they stepped back and fell to the ground.** Remember when Jesus had said these same words earlier in the same writing.

John 8:58-59 ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I AM." ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden and went out of the temple.

This was no mere statement meaning, '*I am the man you're looking for*'. Jesus claims the title of **I AM** - God (Ex. 3:14). This is why some had earlier picked up stones - to kill the 'blasphemer'. I AM caused them to fall **to the ground**.

¹ William Barclay, *The Gospel of John, Vol. 2* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1956), p. 259.

² Gerald L. Borchert, *John 12-21, vol. 25B, The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2002), 216.

³ Gary M. Burge, *John, The NIV Application Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000), 491.

⁴ Grant R. Osborne, *John: Verse by Verse*, ed. Jeffrey Reimer et al., Osborne New Testament Commentaries (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018), 410-411.

⁵ Borchert, 217-218.

⁶ William Hendriksen, *1953 New Testament Commentary: Exposition of the Gospel According to John*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 378)

⁷ Burge, 492.

⁸ Borchert, 217.

John 18:7-11 ⁷ Then he asked them again, "Who is it that you're seeking?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said. ⁸ "I told you I AM [he]," Jesus replied. "So if you're looking for me, let these men go." ⁹ This was to fulfill the words he had said: "I have not lost one of those you have given me." ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹ At that, Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword away! **Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?"**

I have not lost one of those you have given me.

This is what Jesus had finished praying in **Jn. 17:12**. The *I AM* will allow HIMSELF to be taken, but won't yet allow it to happen to His disciples.

Simon Peter...struck the high priest's servant.

Here again, only John gives us the details, that it was **Simon Peter** had a short **sword**, (more like a long knife - Greek - *machaira*),⁹ that he used to cut off an ear.

- Unless Simon was left handed or attacked from the backside, he would have aimed for the left ear, *if he was aiming for an ear*. Peter was likely aiming to kill this guy. I can imagine 100 swords being drawn from their sheaths as Simon Peter demonstrates that he meant his earlier words, "*I will lay down my life for You.*" (Jn 13:37)

Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me?"

The Suffering Servant didn't need to be defended. Jesus was ready **to drink the cup the Father** had given Him.

The cup is a phrase often used in the Old Testament and some New Testament writings to **refer to God's wrath being pour out on people who refuse to obey Him** (Ps. 11:6; 75:8; Isa. 51:17, 22; Jer. 25:15; Ezek. 23:31-34; Rev. 14:10; 16:19).

But now the cup was about to be poured out on the SINLESS ONE. John doesn't tell us about Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane, but John Mark does:

Mark 14:35-36 ³⁵ He went a little farther, fell to the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ And he said, "*Abba, Father!* All things are possible for you. **Take this cup away from me.** Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will."

Jesus WOULD drink "the cup" the Father had given Him and fulfill His role as "*the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*" (Jn 1:29)

BIG TRUTH: Jesus was Betrayed so the World would be Saved.

Jesus saw this coming well before it happened. God knew and used a deceitful disciple and arrogant authorities in His sovereign plan to LOVE and SAVE the lost world.

John 18:12-14 ¹² Then the company of soldiers, the commander, and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus and tied him up. ¹³ First they led him to Annas, since he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be better for one man to die for the people. [see Jn 11:50]

Although the Romans had replaced **Annas**, the former high priest, with his son-in-law - **Caiaphas** - the Jews still saw Annas as being in control. So, he got the first shot at Jesus.

John 18:15-18 ¹⁵ Simon Peter was following Jesus, as was another disciple. That disciple was an acquaintance of the high priest; so he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard. ¹⁶ But Peter remained standing outside by the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the girl who was the doorkeeper and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ Then the servant girl who was the doorkeeper said to Peter, "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" "**I am not.**" he said. ¹⁸ Now the servants and the officials had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold. They were standing there warming themselves, and Peter was standing with them, warming himself.

YOUR NOTES

John 18:19-23 ¹⁹ The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰ "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus answered him. "I have always taught in the synagogue and in the temple, where all the Jews congregate, and I haven't spoken anything in secret. ²¹ Why do you question me? Question those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said." ²² When he had said these things, one of the officials standing by **slapped Jesus**, saying, "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" ²³ "If I have spoken wrongly," Jesus answered him, "give evidence about the wrong; but if rightly, why do you hit me?"

* Note: **Jesus did NOT "turn the other cheek" here.** Why not? *Turning the other cheek* is what Jesus commands when we are INSULTED, not ASSAULTED. When Jesus is **slapped** (assaulted), He demands a justifiable reason.

John 18:24-27 ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. ²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" He denied it and said, "**I am not.**" ²⁶ One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" ²⁷ **Peter denied it again.** Immediately a rooster crowed.

What Jesus told **Simon Peter** during the Passover meal had now come to be. John gives Simon some grace (Peter cursed & and swore with an oath when he denied Jesus - Mt 26:74; Mk 14:71). As the rooster crowed, Simon's heart must have sank, remembering that Jesus said this would happen (Jn 13:38).

* Luke's gospel notes one more insight that John doesn't mention about Simon's Peter upcoming denial.

Luke 22:31-32 ³¹ "Simon, Simon, look out. Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And you, **when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.**"

John gives no details about what happened with Caiaphas, but Mark's gospel tells us this is where they finally found Jesus guilty of blasphemy. It's also where they spit on Jesus, blindfolded Him, telling Jesus to prophecy who just hit Him (Mark 14:53-65).

John 18:28-32 ²⁸ Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They did not enter the headquarters themselves; otherwise they would be defiled and unable to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate came out to them and said, "What charge do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered him, "If this man weren't a criminal, we wouldn't have handed him over to you." ³¹ Pilate told them, "You take him and judge him according to your law." "It's not legal for us to put anyone to death," the Jews declared. ³² They said this **so that Jesus's words might be fulfilled indicating what kind of death he was going to die.**

They are concerned about ritual purity, but they are trying to put an innocent man to death, the ONE that Passover pointed to. If the Jews killed Jesus, then it would have been by stoning, something that had prepared to do on multiple occasions (Jn 8:58-59, 10:30-33). Now, Jesus' enemies hand Him off to the Romans, bringing a different **kind of death** - crucifixion - fulfilling **Jesus's words** from earlier in the evening.

John 12:32-33 ³² As for me, if I am **lifted up from the earth** I will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to indicate **what kind of death he was about to die.**

What kind of death was *THAT?* - crucifixion. King David prophesied the kind of death Jesus would die...1000 years before, even though he wasn't familiar with crucifixion because it wasn't yet invented!

Psalms 22:16 ¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded me; a gang of evildoers has closed in on me; **they pierced my hands and my feet.**

The Jewish leaders wanted Pilate to KILL Jesus, but Pilate wanted to hear Jesus for himself.

John 18:33-38a ³³ Then Pilate went back into the headquarters, summoned Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Are you asking this on your own, or have others told you about me?" ³⁵ "I'm not a Jew, am I?" Pilate replied. "Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ "My kingdom is not of this world," said Jesus. "If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ "You are a king then?" Pilate asked. "You say that I'm a king," Jesus replied. "I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth. **Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.**" ³⁸ "What is truth?" said Pilate.

That's the same thing many in our culture are asking...*"IS THERE an objective moral truth - what is true for all times, all people, and in all places?"* And many come to the conclusion that there is NOT. But the Christian claim is that **Jesus IS the TRUTH** (John 14:6). What has says can be trusted, *for all times, all people, and in all places*. The standard of truth stands in front of Pilate and he doesn't recognize TRUTH.

John 18:38b-40 After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no grounds for charging him.³⁹ You have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at the Passover. So, do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"⁴⁰ They shouted back, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.

Barabbas was likely viewed as a terrorist by the Romans, captured and held for execution, yet considered something of a hero who fought to free the Jews from the Romans.¹⁰ MacArthur notes: "Barabbas was no common, petty thief...Matthew calls him a "notorious prisoner" (Matt. 27:16), while Mark (15:7) and Luke (23:19) note that he was a murderer (cf. Acts 3:14) and an insurrectionist."¹¹

Bar = Son + Abbas = Father = Son of the Father A variant reading in Matthew 27:16 names him *Jesus Barabbas*. Here is the option: "Do you want me to release Jesus, 'the so-called King of the Jews' or Jesus, 'son of the father'?"

Pilate's seemed *surprised* when the people called not for the true sinless *SON OF THE FATHER*, but for the sinful, selfish counterfeit "son of the father" - **Barabbas**. And now Jesus, the unblemished One, the One whom Pilate declared as innocent, would die, instead of one who deserved to die.

🌟 **Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse:**

Barabbas was the only man in the world who could say that Jesus Christ took his physical place. But I can say that Jesus Christ took my spiritual place. For it was I who deserved to die...He was handed over to judgment because of my sins. This is why we speak of the substitutionary atonement. Christ was my substitute.¹²

BIG TRUTH: Jesus was Betrayed so the World would be Saved.

...that people like you and me, would get what we didn't deserve...FULL FORGIVENESS & an ETERNAL FUTURE...so that we can truly be called SONS & DAUGHTERS of the FATHER!

1. Have you **TURNED** from sin & **TRUSTED** what Jesus has done for you?
2. Are you **SEEKING the ONE** who gave His life for you?
3. Are you **SHARING** with others what Jesus has done for you and extending His good news to them?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What impacted you most from the teaching today?
2. **Read John 18:1-3.** Why didn't Jesus go to a place that Judas would NOT be aware of, or to a place where Judas was NOT able to bring enemies to capture Him?
3. As you read through this entire text of John 18, what does the response of Jesus tell you about Him? (e.g. He knew what was coming, yet He wouldn't run away.)
4. **Read John 18:4-5 & John 8:58-59.** Why is Jesus' use of "I AM" and the response to His words so significant?
5. **Read John 18:11 & Mark 1:35-36** and read several of these passages that speak of God pouring out His "cup": Ps. 11:6; 75:8; Isa. 51:17, 22; Jer. 25:15; Ezek. 23:31-34; Rev. 14:10; 16:19. Then answer this: What does the willingness of Jesus to drink the cup say about our sin and His graciousness?
6. **Read John 18:26-27 & Luke 22:31-32.** How does it encourage you to know that although Peter denied Jesus multiple times, and the disciples scattered, that Jesus later forgave & USED them?
7. **Read John 18:29-3, John 12:32-33, & Psalm 22:16.** If Jesus had been killed by the Jews, then the Scriptures would NOT have been fulfilled. Why is this so? (hint: they would have killed Jesus in a different way). How does it impact you to know that the Scriptures spoke of the Roman crucifixion generations before it occurred?
8. Tell about when you TURNED from sin & TRUSTED Jesus. Share how you are currently SEEKING Jesus and SHARING Him with others.
9. Pray for one another and check on each other this week.

¹⁰ Merrill C. Tenney, "John," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: John and Acts*, ed. Frank E. Gaebelin, vol. 9 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981), 176.

¹¹ John F. MacArthur Jr., *John 12-21, MacArthur New Testament Commentary* (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2008), 337.

¹² Donald Grey Barnhouse, *Romans, Vol. 2, "God's Remedy"* (Fincastle, VA: Scripture Truth, 1954), p. 378.