

## **Betrayal and the Cross: John 18:1-8**

**Text: John 18:1-8** "When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples. And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples. Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground. Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way..."

### **Part 1: The flow of events:**

- **John records these events in four phases:**
  - **Phase 1: Christ was arrested in the garden; John 18:1-11**
  - **Phase 2: He stood trial before the religious leaders late into the night: 18:12-27**
  - **Phase 3: He stood before the Roman Governor Pontious Pilate: 18:28-19:16**
  - **Phase 4: He was crucified later that day: 19:17-30**
- **He stood before six separate officials while the people celebrated the completion of Passover.**
  - **Before Annas: John 18:12-14, 19-23**
  - **Before Caiaphas: Matthew 26:57-68**
  - **Before the Sanhedrin: Matthew 27:1-2**
  - **Before Pilate John 18:28-38**
  - **Before Herod: Luke 23:6-12**
  - **Before Pilate Again: John 18:39-19:16**

### **Part 2: The astonishing injustice and hypocrisy of these trials:**

- **Hypocrisy: John 18:28** "Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover..."
- **Corruption: 18:29** "Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee..."
- **Irony:**

- **The Jews did not have the authority to do what they wanted to do: 18:31** "Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death..."
- **Pilate knew about Christ and likely discussed him with others: 18:37** "Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice..."
- **Pilate publicly admitted that there was no just cause for crucifixion: 18:38** "Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all..."
- **Animosity: 18:39** "Ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews? Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber..."
- **Maneuvering:**
  - **19:1-3** "Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands..."
  - **19:6** "When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him..."
- **Compromise: 19:12-16** "And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar...Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away..."

### **Part 3: The weight of the cross:**

- **It is heavy because of the weight of our sin:**
  - **Our sin is offensive to God and sets us apart from Him: Ephesians 2:3** "We all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath..."
  - **This sin is lawless and must be punished: Romans 6:23** "The wages of sin is death..."
  - **We have no way to remedy our problem: Isaiah 64:6** "We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags..."

- **This should terrify us if there is no hope. Romans 7:23-24**  
 “But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”
- **It is heavy because it is our only hope: Romans 8:3** “What the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh...”
- **It is heavy because of what it cost Christ: Isaiah 53:5-11** “He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities...the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all...it pleased the LORD to bruise him...He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied...he shall bear their iniquities...”
- **It is heavy because it satisfied God’s justice: Romans 5:6-10**  
 “When we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly...God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him...when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son...”
- **It is heavy because of what it gives us:**
  - **Romans 8:1-3** “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death...”
  - **Romans 8:18** “I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us...”

**Conclusion:**

- The sufferings of the cross and Christ’s willingness to embrace this suffering have given us so much.
- Let’s pause and remember His body that bore our sin and was crushed for us.
- Let’s remember His blood shed for the remission of our sins.
- Let’s thank Him for what He has done and what we have.
- Let’s purpose to live like the people that we are in Him!