

# One Week Left - What Would You Do with Seven Days?

## Episode 4 - John 18 — *Betrayal, Denial, Sentence*

### I. Mount of Olives

- A. Why do you think Jesus typically went to the Mount of Olives?
- B. The word “Gethsemane” means olive press. How symbolic is it that Jesus was “pressed” on that tragic night, with the very life essence pressed out of him?
- C. Why might Jesus’ trek from the Mount of Olives, down the hill of the Kidron Valley, and into Jerusalem not be surprising the people of Jesus’ day?

### II. Arrest

- A. How does Peter’s use of the sword reflect his lack of understanding of Jesus’ ultimate purpose?
- B. How does Jesus response “I Am He,” considering the theological meaning of “I Am” (Yahweh), escalate the charges and situation even more?

### III. Plan B

- A. In Mathew 26: 27-42, Matthew records a longer period of prayer in which Jesus asks the Father if there is any other plan for the ultimate salvation of the world (Plan B), or any way this “cup” could be taken away from him. How does the human desire for life make you feel more humanly connected to Jesus? What would your prayer have been that night in the Garden if you had been in Jesus place?
- B. Temple Mount is Mount Moriah, also the location where Abraham was going to sacrifice Isaac. In that story, a ram was caught in the thicket, a Plan B did show up. How do you think that episode may have been playing in the back of Jesus’s mind?
- C. Do you think you would have had the courage to drink the cup that Jesus drank?

### IV. Denial

- A. Peter denied Jesus in the courtyard. Where were the other disciples in the hour of Jesus’ greatest need?
- B. If you had been Peter, what do you think you would have done?

C. The religious trial happened on a night cold enough that a charcoal fire was burning. The word charcoal only appears twice in the New Testament, both in John. The second is when Jesus reinstates Peter while cooking fish by the sea. How much does a smell trigger memories in your life? How might the smell of charcoal reminded Peter of standing in the courtyard denying Jesus as Jesus seeks to reinstate him?

V. Before Pilate

A. Why did the religious authorities send Jesus to the Roman court?

B. What was the highest responsibility of a Roman Governor?

C. The charges brought against Jesus are that he is a King trying to overthrow the Roman Government. How does Pilate respond?

D. How is the conversation between Jesus and Pilate really two different conversations happening at the same time, but not connecting.

E. The choice between Barabbas and Jesus was for Pilate a logical, easy way out. One was a hardened criminal, and one as an innocent, almost naive religious figure. Do you think Pilate was surprised at the outcome?

F. C.S. Lewis has said that Jesus was either a liar, lunatic, or Lord. Pilate was at that place. How have you wrestled with that question in your own life?

G. Ultimately, Jesus was killed to avoid a mob scene. When has it been easy to deny Jesus to avoid a difficult situation in your own life?

VI. If there was only one week left in your life....

A. What alternative options would you consider to the finality of death?

B. How would you react to people who had betrayed you over the years?

C. How would you try to reconcile the times that you, like Peter and Pilate, turned your back on Jesus to avoid a difficult choice?

D. How would you wrestle with the question, is Jesus a liar, lunatic, or Lord?