

John's Gospel @ CF!

John 18:12-27

Sermon notes – BK

February 22, 2026

I have been so loving the Gospel of John!

This is why it is so good to read ALL the Gospel accounts

- Different *colors*
- Different *details* for the audiences they are writing to
- Different *purposes* to cover the things they did
- Same story... different angles.

Remember, John wrote this AFTER the other three... maybe as much as 30 years after the first Gospel (Mark) was written and distributed...

John highlights Jesus' divine knowledge and control in the situation.

It has been so rich to not just read through this passage to get to the resurrection...

LAST WEEK –

We took a close look at the details John recorded regarding what took place in the Garden.

- Jesus's declaring "I am he" (soldiers falling back)
- Judas betrays (no kiss)

- Peter cuts off Malchus's ear (servant to the High priest)
- Jesus declares, ***“Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”***

John 18:1-11 –

- **Jesus set this up perfectly...**
 - Jesus chose the time, and place.
- **Jesus was in control the whole time...**
 - The Garden
 - The (false) trial – totally off-script and out of line
 - The false accusations
 - The beatings...

Today, we are continuing to unpack these events.

I am very much enjoying the journey of study and learning more deeply through this whole process of events... **it has been so good!**

We are going to **read through this passage**, and then we are going to **go back and unpack some things**

PRAY...

I pray this will continue to fortify your faith and cause you to fall deeper in love with Jesus...

- In a time of chaos, *there was One in control*
- In a time of positioning for power, *there was only One all-powerful*
- In a time of deception, *there was only One truth*
- In a time of fear, *there was only One in perfect peace*

Let's READ this together...

John 18:12-27

¹² So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³ First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

¹⁵ Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸ Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

¹⁹ The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." ²² When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" ²⁴ Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. ²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶ One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷ Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

This first word in John 18:1, "So..." is a big word.

These next steps set it all into motion...

¹² So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. .

Highlight – 12-14

They, "...arrested Jesus and bound him."

Jesus allowed them to "bind" Him

Let's be clear...

- **Jesus was bound – but not as they thought...**
 - **He was bound to do His Father's will**
 - **He was bound by love**
 - **He bore the bonds that were meant for us**

13 First they led him to Annas (the real power here), for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. 14 It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people

John reminds us this was **all part of the plan that had been set into motion by God...** earlier proclaimed by Caiaphas in John 11...

John 11:49-52

49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. 50 Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish."

(51 He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, 52 and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.)

Why would John remind us of this here?

To remind us that God was sovereign through this whole horrible ordeal.

Let's read through the next verses again and slow down for some interesting detail...

John 18:15-18

¹⁵ Simon Peter followed Jesus (from a distance I am guessing, since they scattered a bit ago), ***and so did another disciple (John). Since that disciple was known to the high priest*** (unsure if there was some sort of family connection, or if it was some business connection), ***he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest,*** ¹⁶ ***but Peter stood outside at the door*** (Likely unsure of going in, he did after all cut off an ear in the Garden). ***So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in.*** (It was like John said, "he's with me..." This is why the following question seems logical) ¹⁷ ***The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."*** (she asks it in a negative way, and it is almost as if Peter is just trying to quiet her and change the subject). ¹⁸ ***Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.*** (Peter, watching from a distance was seeing this unfold, likely looking very agitated)...

The text does not say, but clearly John identifies as a disciple of Jesus

Peter does the opposite – and yet he stayed there around the fire – likely trying to listen to what was going on...

Let's read on...

John 18:19-24

¹⁹ The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." (Jesus was by no means out of place here. They were supposed to provide credible witnesses for this to be a real trial. Jesus was speaking of this very thing here) ²² When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" (This kind of physical abuse was common apparently in Annas' court) ²³ Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" (Here, Jesus totally exposed the disgraceful truth - they were not following their own standards and practice of justice with Jesus.) ²⁴ Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

- **Jesus did not back down**
- **Jesus knew the process and called them on it... they didn't honor it, nor did they intend to through this whole process.**
- **Without witnesses this was not a real trial...**
 - **They did not care**

- They wanted Jesus gone
- God had it all under control...

MEANWHILE... Back at the fire...

John 18:25-27

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of his disciples, are you?” (Peter was seeing how this was all going, and he was growing in fear I am sure. His response makes this clear) He denied it and said, “I am not.” ²⁶ One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” (THIS is what fueled Peter’s fear I am sure... it could be that Peter even recognized him all along... further feeding his fear) ²⁷ Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed

Matthews account of this says that Peter got really big –

Matthew 26:74

Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed.

Just hours before this, Jesus said...

John 13:36-38

³⁶ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.” ³⁷ Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” ³⁸ Jesus

answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

...Then...

John 14:1

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

Maybe this came to Peter’s mind when we read what Luke adds in here –

Luke 22:61-62

⁶¹ And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” ⁶² And he went out and wept bitterly.

Highlight –

Though John was there and witnessed all of this, He highlighted these paralleling stories...

Jesus and Peter...

What a contrast they are...

The parallel stories:

- **Peter being questioned**
 - **Answering with lies in fear (to *save his life*)
 - **Even though Peter came in with John (*who identified as a disciple*)****

- **Peter denied association** – here to a servant (*who was related to Malchus*)... who saw Peter (*and the ear thing...*)

Let's contrast this with Jesus...

- **Jesus being questioned**
 - Jesus answered honestly in surrender to His Father (*to give His life*)
 - Jesus called for witnesses (*as was appropriate*)
 - Jesus was clear in His answers
 - Jesus took abuse for that honesty/clarity

We see quite a contrast between Peter and Jesus.

Incidentally...

- There are **three instances where Jesus is “I am”** in **verses 5-8** (twice by Jesus, once repeated in the storytelling)
- There are **three denials of Peter saying, “I am not.”**

These parallel stories speak to us today as well, don't they?

Jesus on an unwavering mission to honor His Father...
Peter was self-preserving and fearful

Jesus spoke truth, knowing where it would lead
Peter lied, fearing where it could lead

Jesus walked in relationship with His Father
Peter chose to walk this out all on his own.

Where would you have been?

The elements John gives are to –

- ***Highlight*** he witnessed these things first-hand,
- ***Qualify him*** to be an accurate witness to the things he records for us.

The greatest story ever told...

Is ours to experience

Is ours to tell