

Heavenly Fueled Courage

John 18:12-28

vs. 12-14, Religious Trial

Annas - has been the high priest before Caiaphas from AD5-AD15.

Caiaphas - served as high priest from AD18-AD36.

John 11:50 You're not considering that it is to your advantage that one man should die for the people rather than the whole nation perish."

John & Peter

Peter stands in contrast to what is taking place with Jesus.

- Peter in confusion and fear denies knowing Jesus.
- Jesus through courage and faithfulness speaks the truth and protects his followers.

vs. 18, Charcoal fire - storytelling foreshadowing.

John 21:9 When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread.

Her question to Peter was likely a question of curiosity, dipped in a thick layer of cynicism (not hostility).

Imagine Peter's nerves and state of mind.

The end justified the means.

But one denial will lead to another!

Panic will continue to settle in, leading to increased fear, lies, and denial.

vs. 19-24, The interrogation begins.

An official interrogation at night would have been viewed as illegal.

vs. 21, Jesus points out they are not doing things correctly.

- In a formal Jewish hearing it would have been illegal to question the defendant. A case had to rest on the weight of the testimony of witnesses.

vs. 22, Reveals the temperature of the room.

Violence has begun and will only escalate from here.

vs. 25-27, Back to the fire with Peter.

- As people are keeping warm by the fire another person engages Peter ("You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?")
- The question is almost identical to the previous question in vs. 17.
- We don't recognize you. Who are you?

Peter is responding to those questioning him much different than Jesus is responding.

- Jesus speaks the truth with courage and calmness. He denies nothing.

- Peter speaks in fear and panic denying everything.

Peter is questioned once more.

Wait, I did see you at the garden.

vs. 27, Peter denied it again. Immediately a rooster crowed.

John wants his listeners / readers to be warned.

Regardless of the opposition, remain faithful.

John 20:31 But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The rooster crowing does two things in John's storytelling.

1. The words of Jesus are fulfilled (13:36).
2. An indication of the time of day (it is very early in the morning).

Question: What does it look like for you to be a person of courage concerning your faith? In tense situations how do you trust the Holy Spirit to be a person of peace?

vs. 28, Jesus is now being moved to his third location.

Most likely Jesus would have been brought to Pilate before 6am.

John is making a clear statement concerning hypocrisy.

More of John's irony

The true high priest will be sent to his death by the false one, so that through his death God will rescue his people.

The world is following in the footsteps of the first Adam.

Humanity is continuing the legacy of disobedience, violence, and death.

Moving forward, all of the upcoming events and circumstances which take place concerning the death of Jesus, can be described as unfair and unjust. It oozes with selfishness, arrogance, abuse, and everything that is shameful.

Jesus is the new head of humanity. He is the second Adam.

1 Corinthians 15:45-49 So it is with the resurrection of the dead: Sown in corruption, raised in incorruption; **43** sown in dishonor, raised in glory; sown in weakness, raised in power; **44** sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. **45** So it is written, **The first man Adam became a living being**; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. **46** However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, then the spiritual. **47** The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. **48** Like the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; like the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. **49** And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

Romans 5:18-21 So then, as through one trespass there is condemnation for everyone, so also through one righteous act there is justification leading to life for everyone. **19** For just as through one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. **20** The law came along to multiply the trespass. But where sin multiplied, grace multiplied even more **21** so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace will reign through righteousness, resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Jesus humanity is offered redemption and new life.

Question: How do you bear the image of Jesus? In preparation for the week of Prayer and Practice spend time this week in a posture of gratefulness.

How does Jesus bring comfort to you in the midst of a world that is filled with injustice?