

John 18:1-27 – 23 August 2026

“Embracing Our Godly Identity”

Introduction

*Chap 13-16 was the intimate convo Jesus had w/ His disciples to prepare them for His imminence departure

*Chap 17 is what truly is ‘The Lord’s Prayer’

*In that garden Jesus truly won our salvation by submitting His will to the Father (not My will, but Yours be done)

*Today, with His 11 disciples around Him, Jesus is arrested by the Jews to be taken to the cross

*In the 1st half of John 18, there is a vivid comparison of Jesus and Peter that is unmistakable

*Jesus stands while Peter falls

*Jesus is prayed up and ready to embrace the hardest part of His Godly identity, Peter is not

Today we’ll see 3 ways to embrace the greatness of our Godly identity

#1 – Jesus willfully espoused it while Peter rejected it (18:1-11)

Read 18:1-2

1. In the Garden, Jesus brought Peter, James & John into the Garden to pray while He went further
 - a. Luke 22:39 says this “was His custom”
 - b. He had a regular prayer time w/ the Father
2. Jesus came back & forth 3 times, though their spirit was willing their flesh was weak
3. Jesus was literally winning the battle over the flesh as He was praying, “not My will but Yours”

Read 18:3

1. Judas has already agreed for 30 silver to tell the Jews where Jesus would be to arrest Him
2. Judas came w/ Jewish authority & Roman support
3. From the other accounts we know Judas told the soldiers he would identify Jesus by a kiss
 - a. Judas still pretending he’s a friend
 - b. We need authenticity (Read Rev 3:16)

- c. Jesus wasn't glowing w/ a halo, Isaiah says
He had no form or comeliness that we should
desire Him

Read 18:4-6

1. Jesus invokes His Godhood title "I AM"
 - a. He also said this to other Jews, "Before Abraham was, "I AM"
 - b. Jesus is Yahweh who revealed Himself to Moses
2. Notice, when trouble came, Jesus didn't shrink back but pressed into it
 - a. He's prayed up & ready since the garden
 - b. Like 3 Jews of Dan 3, they wouldn't bow
 - i. They didn't seek the trouble, but when it came, they boldly trusted God thru it

Read 18:7-9

1. Even in arrest, Jesus shows true authority
 - a. He knocks them down 1st time to show it
 - b. He doesn't do it 2nd time to allow the arrest

2. When He says, I'm the One, so let them go, this isn't an ask – He's *telling* them what to do
3. Be sure – Jesus willingly went to the cross

Read 18:10-11

1. Peter's action though bold, is boldly wrong
 - a. There's a time to be bold (flipping Temple tables) & there's a time to go along
 - b. The key is to know God's will in a situation
 - c. Peter had every ability to know God's will
2. John is the only writer that names Malchus
 - a. John had close associates within the circle of the High Priest (see (vs 15-16)
3. We know very little of what later happens to Malchus
 - a. Bible tells us *big* things can happen when we show love knowing it can't come back to us
 - b. This kind of grace can change a life
4. Knowing God's will keeps you in a place of power & you're able to continue to think of others

#2 – Jesus fully enveloped Himself in it, while Peter retreated from it (18:12-18)

Read 18:12-14

1. All together Jesus will be tried before Annas -> Caiaphas -> Sanhedrin condemns Him early the next morning -> Pilate -> Herod -> Pilate
2. With the office being bought & sold, Annas was like the High Priest Emiratis at this point
3. John requoting what Caiaphas said (vs 14 from John 11) reminds us they already had their minds made up regarding what they want to do to Jesus

Read 18:15-16

1. This other disciple is the author John
 - a. He speaks of himself this way several times
 - b. His bond to the H.P. family is unknown
2. Since cutting Malchus's ear, Peter is holding back & embarrassed but John draws Peter closer
3. These 2 verses set up the conversation between Peter & the female doorkeeper that lets Peter in

Read 18:17-18

1. Earlier this night in the upper room Passover celebration Jesus prophesied Peter's denial
 - a. Read John 13:38 – Even after Jesus said this, Peter still insisted that he'd die for Jesus
 - b. Now he warms himself at the enemy's fire
2. This is the 1st of Peter's 3 denials
 - a. This isn't just a slipup – thought behind it
 - b. Jesus can forgive even this

#3 – Jesus forcefully expressed it, while Peter recanted it (18:19-27)

Read 18:19-21

1. Jesus isn't differing the question to hide
 - a. He is saying there's an even more sure way of gathering the truth...if they really want it
 - b. They're not interested in truth, they want to catch Him in some new slip up – it won't work
2. Christians never have to shy away from truth

Read 18:22-23

1. If an unbeliever doesn't get what they want from a talk, they often blame you for wrong
2. I can see the soldier saying to Jesus, "It's not what you said that was evil, it's how you said it"
 - a. When the world finds a Christian blameless in words or actions, they often blame us for being unloving, mean or snarky
 - b. Simply b/c they didn't get what they wanted

Read 18:24

1. That they were trying to get Jesus to confess to evil is apparent in (Read) Matt 26:59-60a
2. Before Caiaphas, they try saying He was about to destroy the Temple – false misunderstanding
3. Caiaphas asked is He the Christ, the Son of God
 - a. And He certainly confirmed it (Read Matt 26:64)
 - b. To the Jews this was the final straw for death
 - c. The beatings start here (Read Isa 52:14)

4. If He avoids them, they hate Him; if He answers with the truth, they hate Him

Read 18:25

1. This is Peter's 2nd denial

Read 18:26-27

1. In this 3rd encounter, this man recalls seeing Peter in the garden, *and* IAW the other Gospel records, they could tell Peter spoke Galilean
2. Luke records this 3rd denial came 'after about an hour'
 - a. Peter had time to think of what he was doing
 - b. This was willful & not just an emotional outburst
3. It's recorded this is when Jesus turned and looked at Peter as the cock crowed for the 3rd time
 - a. Jesus knows every one of our shortcomings and loves us anyway – always giving us a way back

Conclusion

So, Jesus *stands* while Peter *falls*

Jesus embraced God's identity and God's will, Peter did not

Jesus was prayed up, ready for the moment, Peter was not

Do you want to stand? Be like Jesus

1. **Willfully espouse God's will for your life, don't reject it (1-11)**
2. **Fully envelope yourself in God's will, don't retreat from it (12-18)**
3. **Forcefully express God's will, don't recant it (19-27)**