

JOHN 18:19-40

REVIEW...

● JOHN 18 – THE BETRAYAL OF JESUS...

- o Jesus finished His final teaching with a prayer – and then came to the Garden of Gethsemane...
 - The secluded garden was the perfect place to ambush Jesus...
 - Judas led a band of soldiers with swords and clubs there to arrest Jesus...
 - When they arrived Jesus asked who they were looking for – ‘Jesus of Nazareth’...
 - When He answered ‘I Am’ – they all fell down backwards!
 - Jesus was willing to go with them – but they were not to touch His disciples
- o Peter tried to defend Jesus – drew his sword – cut off Malchus ear...
 - Jesus had him put away his weapon – healed Malchus ear...
 - Jesus had to go – the whole reason He came was to die for our sins!
- o Peter and John followed Jesus from a distance...
 - John was able to get into the High Priests house where they were trying Jesus...
 - Peter tried to get in – but was questioned – and denied knowing Jesus...
 - He then went and warmed himself by the fire in the High Priests courtyard

THE TRIAL OF JESUS... (3 THINGS)

● 1ST – THE TRIAL BEFORE ANNAS... vs. 19-24

- o Jesus was tried four separate times before His crucifixion...
 - He was first tried at night before Annas – recorded only here in John...
 - Jesus was then tried at night before Caiaphas - recorded in **Matthew 26 / Mark 14**...
 - There also was a morning trial before the High Priests Caiaphas – **Luke 22**...
 - Finally Jesus was tried before the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate...
- o 1ST - Annas asked Jesus about His teachings / disciples... vs. 19-23
 - Jesus told them He taught openly in the Temple and synagogues...
 - If they wanted to know what He had taught – ask the people who were listening...
 - The point was if Annas did not know what Jesus was teaching...
 - It was not because it was a secret – it was because he was not listening!
 - **Jesus is not hidden - He is easy to find - the Gospel message is available to everyone!**
 - **The problem is people do not want Jesus - because they prefer to stay in their sin...**
 - **They would rather have their sin - than eternal life with God in Heaven!**
 - One of the officers struck Jesus in the face...
 - He demanded – ‘Is that any way to answer the High Priest question’...
 - But Jesus was quick to respond – ‘What did I do to deserve a slap in the face’...
 - If He had done something wrong – then they should give their evidence first!
 - Jesus was not just talking about the slap – He was referring to the whole trial...
 - This was not justice – it was a lynch mob that had only one purpose – to kill Jesus!
- o 2ND - After questioning Jesus – Annas sent Him to Caiaphas... vs. 24
 - There - according to **Luke 22** – Caiaphas demanded to know if Jesus was the Christ...
 - Jesus answered - ‘If I tell you - you will not believe’...
 - He knew they were not looking for the truth – they were looking to accuse Him...

- And no matter what He said – they were not going to believe the truth!
- There are many times we want to ‘make’ someone believe in Jesus as their savior...
- But if someone does not want to hear about Jesus - you cannot make them listen...
- We can pray for them - so the Lord opens their heart/ears - so they want to hear!
- Finally they asked Jesus - ‘Are you the Son of God’...
 - He said to them all – ‘I Am’ - referring to the name of God - **Exodus 3:14**
 - At the ‘confession’ of Jesus - Caiaphas the High Priest tore his clothes - **Mark 14:63**...
 - He did it in an effort to show his outrage at the ‘Blasphemy’ of Jesus...
 - But by tearing his clothes - he removed himself as the High Priest...
 - **Leviticus 21:10** - “The high priest... must never... tear his clothing.”
 - By disqualifying himself as High Priest - he opened the door for Jesus to replace him
 - **Hebrews 9:11** - “Christ has now become the High Priest over all...”
- o 3rd - Early the next morning Jesus was given His ‘public trial’...
 - The reason for the morning trial – was the night trial had been illegal...
 - 1st – Only a judge – not the High Priest – was allowed to pass judgment...
 - 2nd – You could not try a prisoner at night (*a rush trial – perversion of justice*)...
 - 3rd – It was against the law to interrogate a prisoner in a closed meeting...
 - 4th – It was against the law to hold a trial the day before a Holy day (*Sabbath*)...
 - This third trial at daybreak was simply done for appearances - legitimacy...
 - The verdict had already been rendered - Jesus was going to be crucified!
- 2ND – THE DENIAL OF PETER... VS. 25-27
 - o 1st - While Annas tried Jesus - Peter was still warming himself by the fire...
 - He was trying to just blend into the crowd - hoping no one would recognize him...
 - One of the people asked him – ‘You are not one of Jesus’ disciples are you...’
 - The assumption was that Peter was not one of the disciples...
 - He was so convincing warming himself by the fire – he looked like he belonged there!
 - If we try and blend into the world – we will end up far from Jesus...
 - We may even find people no longer recognize us as Christians...
 - Because we want to blend into the world – we begin to look just like the world...
 - A second time Peter denied Jesus – this time with an Oath – **Matthew 26:72**
 - If He had not been warming himself by the fire – He would not have denied Jesus...
 - Peter put himself in a place where he was going to compromise...
 - Be very careful where you allow yourself to go - who you are identified with...
 - **I Corinthians 15:33** - “Bad company corrupts good character.”
 - We are foolish if we think those around us do not affect us...
 - If you hang out with people who gamble - tell bad jokes - and get drunk...
 - But you think to yourself - I will not be like them - I am a godly Christian - foolish...
 - Choose VERY wisely who you spend time with - because you will become like them!
 - o 2nd - A relative of Malchus (*Peter cut off his ear*) recognized Peter from Gethsemane...
 - The servant made two accusations against Peter...
 - First Peter had tried to murder his relative in the Garden of Gethsemane...
 - Second Peter was most assuredly one of the disciples of Jesus!
 - Peter reacted violently – and began to curse and swear - ‘I do not know this Man!’
 - In front of someone Peter had once been willing to fight for Jesus - he now denied Him!
 - He added cursing and swearing to prove he was not even a religious man!

- There is no middle ground – if we are not drawing closer to Jesus – father away...
- Friendship with the world is a slippery slope – you quickly slide down...
- If you are wondering where your walk with the Lord is - examine yourself...
- **II Corinthians 13:5** - “Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine...”
- If we are still acting like (*or worse*) than the world around us - where is Jesus...
- Do we live in willful sin - ignoring the conviction of the Holy Spirit in our lives...
- Or are we forgiven by grace - not living for sin - but living our lives for Jesus!
- o 3rd - Immediately the rooster crowed...
 - At the same time Jesus was led out of Annas house – to be tried by Caiaphas...
 - Jesus stopped and looked at Peter – knowing he had denied the Lord three times...
 - The conviction must have been overwhelming – the failure was complete...
 - Peter – in Jesus hour of greatest need – had turned his back on the Lord / his friend...
 - He had boasted – even if all others leave - yet now he himself had denied Jesus!
 - Peter went out and wept bitterly!
 - Peter was broken – but he had learned the most important lesson...
 - Peter learned he could not trust in himself – he learned to he needed Jesus!
 - When we get to that place where we have completely failed...
 - We have done things – become so much like the world – we are shocked...
 - Jesus is right there – He is looking right at us – not in condemnation...
 - But in forgiveness – if we are willing to let our heart break – repent...
 - Come back to the Lord – stand with the Lord!
 - Realize you need the Lord – every moment of every day!
- 3RD – TRIAL BEFORE PILATE... vs. 28-40
 - o 1st - Jesus was taken to be judged by the Roman governor Pontius Pilate... 28-32
 - The leaders refused to go in to the Praetorium fortress to see Pilate...
 - They were still celebrating the seven-day feast of Unleavened Bread...
 - And if they went into the ‘house of a gentile’ – they would become ‘unclean’...
 - They would no longer be able to attend the festival – so they did not go in!
 - Instead Pilate came out to them and asked what accusations they had against Jesus...
 - The Jews assured him they would not have brought Him if he were not a ‘bad man’...
 - Pilate was not impressed – ‘You take Him and judge Him according to your law...’
 - But the Jews could not judge Jesus – they did not have the right to put Him to death...
 - Around Jesus’ birth – Rome had taken away the Jewish right of ‘Capital Punishment’...
 - The leaders could condemn Jesus – but they did not have the right to kill Him...
 - o 2nd - Pilate called Jesus into the Praetorium... vs. 33-38
 - The Jews made several accusations against Jesus...
 - They accused Jesus of claiming to be the Son of God – **John 19:7**
 - This accusation was true – Jesus did not claim to be God – He was God!
 - When Pilate heard this he was fearful – and for good reason!
 - Pilate was not sitting in judgment of Jesus – Pilate was sitting before his judge!
 - People need Jesus – one day they will all ‘stand’ before Him - **Philippians 2:10-11**
 - And unless they confess – repent – and accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord...
 - They will have to stand before Jesus and be judged for all their sins...
 - That is why we tell anyone/ everyone about the Good news of the Gospel!
 - They accused Jesus of making Himself King...

- This was a very serious accusation – it was punishable by death...
 - So once Jesus was inside Pilate asked Him – ‘Are you the King of the Jews’...
 - Jesus questioned Pilate – was this his question / or the Jews question...
 - If Pilate was repeating the accusation of the Jew – then it was an empty question...
 - But if the question was Pilate’s – Jesus was more than willing to tell Him the truth...
 - Jesus is not concerned about what other people say about Him – what do we say...
 - If we are truly looking to find the truth - God is always willing to answer...
 - **Jeremiah 29:13** - “You will find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”
- Pilate was indignant – ‘Am I a Jew!’
 - Pilate did not care who the King of the Jews was – he was Roman!
 - But Jesus’ own people and leaders had were demanding He be put to death...
 - Pilate wanted to know what Jesus had done to upset them!
 - So Jesus answered – ‘He was not a King here on this earth...’
 - If He were a King here – His followers would have fought when He was arrested...
 - Jesus was not here to set up His Kingdom – or rebelling against Rome...
 - He was here to save men from sin – He wanted to open the way to heaven!
 - We are not here to get others to come to our church - build ‘our kingdom’...
 - It does not matter what church someone goes to...
 - We are here to tell people about Jesus – what is important is they go to heaven!
- Pilate missed Jesus’ point – and only heard – ‘So you are a King’...
 - Jesus answered – ‘You are right to call me a King...’
 - Jesus came into the world to bring truth – those who love truth recognize Him...
 - But Pilate was not asking the right questions – so he answered - ‘What is truth’...
 - Often times people come away from church / reading their Bibles - empty...
 - They think that the Bible had no answers to their questions...
 - But the problem was not the Bible - the problem was the questions being asked...
 - The Bible does not tell us how to get rich in life - it tells us how to get to heaven!
 - If we come with the right questions - we will find all the answers we need!
- 3rd - Pilate came back and said to the leaders - ‘I find not fault in this man’... vs. 39-40
 - Pilate had a custom of releasing a prisoner for the Passover festival...
 - In an act of good will – and celebration – he would release ‘The King of the Jews’...
 - But the people cried out - ‘Away with Jesus - release Barabbas!’
 - The crowd whom days earlier had cried out – Hosanna - now wanted Jesus dead...
 - The reason - they were just following the crowd - not matter where it led...
 - We often do what others do - because everyone else is doing the same thing...
 - It is always a wise question to ask - whom am I following - where are they going...
 - **Matthew 15:14** - “If the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”
 - When we follow the crowd - we can easily be led the wrong way...
 - Following Jesus means that you do not ‘go with the flow’ - you stand out...
 - If no one else goes to church - if no one else wants to do what is right...
 - Are we still willing to follow Christ - stand up for the truth!