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*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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## John 18.

(2013)

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

***Teach it, don't demand it.***

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## John 18.

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### Topics.

- Judas with soldiers armed with weapons betrays Jesus.
- Jesus surrenders his life over to his enemies.
- Some officers upon seeing Jesus drew back and fell to the ground.
- Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.
- Peter cuts of Malchus ear off with a sword.
- Shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"
- Jesus is taken to Annas and Caiaphas the high priests.
- Peter denies Jesus three times.
- My Kingdom is not of this world.
- The Jews tell Pilate to release Barabbas a robber and murderer.

**The Previous Chapter:** in the previous chapter Jesus knew his hour had come to lay down his life and be glorified. He prayed that all (Jews and Gentiles) who believed in him would be one as he is one with his heavenly Father and that they would be in Christ as he is in God so that they all may be in perfect love and perfect unity.

**NOTE:** for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### Judas with Soldiers armed with Weapons betrays Jesus.

John 18:1-9 ----- <sup>1</sup>When Jesus had spoken these words he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. <sup>2</sup>Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup>So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them "Whom do you seek?" <sup>5</sup>They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup>So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." <sup>9</sup>This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one."

**Kidron Valley:** is a brook near Jerusalem running south under the eastern wall of Jerusalem.

**Nazareth:** Nazareth was a small insignificant town in Palestine, in lower Galilee where Joseph and Mary lived and Gabriel appeared to Mary. Mary. Joseph and Mary travelled from Nazareth to Bethlehem where Jesus was born and later returned to Nazareth to live, but Jesus eventually left the city for a wider ministry. He was called a prophet from Nazareth in Galilee. Jesus enemies used the name Nazarene as a title of scorn, but used by His friends it had a friendly meaning

**Annas and Caiaphas the High Priests:** during the time of Christ the high priesthood was almost a political office. The priests were still coming from the descendants of Aaron but were generally appointed to worldly considerations, the

Roman rulers appointed not only the civil officers but also the high priests so the priesthood declined spiritually. Caiaphas held the office of high priests with Annas as a sort of high priests overseer. The Pharisees feared that if Jesus were left alone many Jews would accept him and the Romans would destroy what was left of Jewish autonomy, it was Caiaphas who declared that it would be better for Jesus to die than that the Jewish nation be destroyed. Annas sent Jesus bound to Caiaphas to be tried by him, but it was Caiaphas who delivered Jesus to Pilate because the Jews could not legally execute him.

### **The Garden of Gethsemane.**

Gethsemane is a perfect name for the place in which Christ prayed his agonising prayer before being brutally tortured and cruelly nailed to the cross since it means, oil-press it was a liquid from the olive and often perfumed it carries the sense of a vat for holding the olives for pressing out the oil by treading and crushing the olives. Figuratively it denotes richness, fruitful and anointed. It was a garden near Jerusalem east of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem on lower west slope of the Mount of Olives (Luke 22:39). Jesus and the apostles often met in this garden (John 18:2).

### **The exact day God delivered Israel from Egypt.**

The words, "When Jesus had spoken these words" (v1) refer to his conversation in the previous chapter with the eleven while they were eating the Last Supper. Now they rise from the table and go to the Garden of Gethsemane. It is sunset early evening of Passover Day the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month of Nisan (also called Abib) on the Jewish calendar. It was the exact day God delivered Israel from Egypt (called the house of bondage)

### **The wicked heart of Judas.**

How wicked was the heart of Judas, for only thirty silver coins, which was equivalent to thirty days wages he not only betrays Jesus but comes with soldiers and officers armed with weapons sent by the religious authorities of Israel the chief priests (Annas and Caiaphas) and the Pharisees to take Jesus captive and to make his betrayal of Christ even more wicked he walks up to Christ who has only done good and betrays him with a kiss which in Jewish culture was a sign of true endearment and friendship.

Judas is the perfect example of a wolf in sheep's clothing, he walked with Jesus, shared in a stunning and miraculous ministry and fellowshiped with brothers and sisters in Christ and added to this he was able to deceive those he walked with (except Jesus of course) not one of the eleven apostles had any idea that Judas was about to betray their Lord and King (V2-3).

### **Who Killed Jesus?**

There is often questions over who killed Jesus, there is no single answer to this since, the Jewish religious leaders of Jesus Generation the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes falsely condemned him to death and then enticed the Gentile Romans to actually kill him, but if mankind had never sinned or could attain to God's perfect standard of Holiness God would not have to have, "Given his only Son so that those separated from him by sin would not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16) therefore we all indirectly had a part in slaying the sacrificial Lamb of God who willing laid down his life for us.

### **Jesus surrenders his life over to his Enemies.**

Jesus is fully aware of the horrific horror that is about to befall him and the whipping, torture and brutal and bloody death he is about to face surrenders to his enemies (v4) for two reasons: -

1. Because his heavenly Father, "So loved the world, that it was in the pre-ordained plan of God before the foundations of the world began to give his only Son so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16).

2. Jesus stated, "Greater love has no one than that they lay down their life for their friends" (John 15:13) so he knew the only way to show his friends how much he loves them was to lay down his life for them and that when his friends understood that he did this for them they would from the heart willing desire to live in a manner that is worthy of his heavenly Father and in this way Gods law would be written by love on their hearts.

### **Some officers upon seeing Jesus drew back and Fell to the Ground.**

The reason, "Some officers drew back and fell to the ground" (v6) when Jesus told them he was Jesus of Nazareth and the one they were coming to take captive could have been because they had heard amazing stories of Jesus i.e., healing the lame and the blind, turning water to wine and multiplying bread, delivering people who believed they were demon possessed, walking on water and raising the dead and knew he was called the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee (Matt 2:11) perhaps those who fell to the ground feared what Jesus and his men might do to them and so they drew back and fell down as an act of surrender or they recognised the goodness in him and therefore fell to the ground as an act of worship.

### **Of those whom you gave me I have Lost Not One.**

Jesus steps forward and tells the soldiers and officers that he is the one they are looking for no-doubt to protect the eleven apostles from his enemies and because it is his destiny.

The words: -

- This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one (v9).

Refers to Jesus prayer to his heavenly Father in the previous chapter in which he prayed: -

- While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction (John 17:12).

### **Peter cuts of Malchus ear off with a Sword.**

John 18:10-14 ----- <sup>10</sup>Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant (The servant's name was Malchus.) and cut off his right ear. <sup>11</sup>So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?" <sup>12</sup>So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. <sup>13</sup>First they led him to Annas for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup>It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

Jesus followers believed he was going to become the King of Jerusalem so naturally Peter draws out his sword to defend Jesus from those who have come to take him prisoner. Jesus response to his enemies is the total opposite to what Peter had expected, not only does Jesus surrender to his enemies he heals the one Peter attacked for the sole reason of defending the Lord he loved. This no-doubt is one of the reasons Peter later denies Jesus, he was confused and could not understand why his Lord and King who had so much power would surrender to such evil religious authorities (v10-11).

### **Shall I not drink the Cup that the Father has given Me?"**

Figuratively the word cup carries the idea of a lot or fate it can embrace any of the following, sorrow, grief, comfort, support, compassion encouragement, joy and salvation.

Jesus words: -

- Shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me? (v11).

Refer to his prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane in which he prayed: -

- Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me.

Jesus was asking the Father if there was any other way mankind could be saved remove this cup of suffering from him, but then ended his prayer with, "Yet not what I will, but what you will." (Mark 14:36) (Luke 22:42) showing that his will was fully surrendered to his Father's will and manifesting his total devotion and love to Him and all those who would come to him.

### **Jesus is taken to Annas and Caiaphas.**

Jesus is taken captive firstly to Annas (v13) the Jewish high priest and father in law of Caiaphas who the Romans had appointed as the high priest so he was the official Roman high priest and Annas was the Jewish high priest who acted as a sort of assistant to Caiaphas. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that "It was better for the Jewish nation that one man should die for the people rather than the whole nation perish"(v14) (Recorded in John 11:49-53).

### **FIRST TIME PETER DENIES JESUS.**

John 18:15-18 ----- <sup>15</sup>Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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." <sup>18</sup>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.

Jesus was firstly taken to Annas the Jewish the high priest and later sent to Caiaphas who the Romans had appointed the official the high priest (v24). It is quite likely that Malchus whose right ear Peter cut off (v10) was the other disciple who was known to Annas the high priest (v15-16) and who was with Peter. Neither Malchus or Peter needed to fear each other or treat each other as enemies since Jesus told Peter to withdraw his sword and healed Malchus ear so it is likely Peter followed Malchus to the court of the high priest and asked Malchus to ask the girl who kept watch at the door to let him into the courtyard and no-doubt the reason the girl asks Peter if he belonged to Jesus group since she would have thought they were enemies of the high priest and probably seeking to harm him. Malchus knowing he had nothing to fear from Peter most likely left the fire and returned to Annas.

- It is still early evening of Passover Day (14<sup>th</sup>).

Remember Peter is confused he does not fully understand why Jesus would surrender his life to their prideful and hypocritical religious enemies and no-doubt fearful to admit to being a disciple of Jesus because he is standing in the courtyard of the high priest with his servants and officers (v26).

### **Jesus is taken before Annas the High Priest.**

John 18:19-24 ----- <sup>19</sup>The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." <sup>22</sup>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?" <sup>23</sup>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?" <sup>24</sup>Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

During Jesus generation it was Jewish culture to allow a Jewish man who had a message of God to share it in the Synagogues and temple and those who were listening were able to challenge and question what they were saying.

Jesus tells Annas that he spoke openly in the Jewish synagogues, in the temple and to the world meaning to the Gentiles. Jesus words, "Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me" (v21) was the right response since it is a Bible principle is to have two or three witnesses testify of you rather than defend yourself especially when those doing the questioning are seeking to harm you. Later when Annas is finished questioning Jesus he sends him bound to Caiaphas the official Roman appointed high priest.

## SECOND TIME PETER DENIES JESUS

John 18:25 ----- <sup>25</sup>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."

Peter is still standing by the fire in the courtyard of Annas the high priest with his servants and officers and they ask him again if he was one of Jesus disciples and Peter being confused and fearful says he is not and denies Jesus a second time.

## THIRD TIME PETER DENIES JESUS

John 18:26-27 ----- <sup>26</sup>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?" <sup>27</sup>Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

While Peter is still warming himself by the fire in the courtyard of Annas the high priest a relative of Malchus (v10) asks Peter if he was in the garden with Jesus and for the third time Peter denies Jesus and immediately the rooster crowed.

**Ponder for a Moment:** after Jesus had eaten the Last Supper with the apostles he told them, "They will all fall away when God strikes the shepherd," and Peter said, "Though they all fall away he will never fall away," then Jesus told him, "This very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." To which Peter said, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" (Matt. 26:30-35). Imagine how Peter must have felt especially when the rooster crowed 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." (Luke 22:61) is it any wonder Peter went out and wept bitterly (Matt. 26:75).

## Jesus is led from Caiaphas to Pilates Headquarters.

John 18:28 ----- <sup>28</sup>Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover.

- It is still early in the morning of Passover Day.

During the time of Christ a Jewish day was from sunset to sunset, it is now sometime after midnight, early morning of Passover Day (14<sup>th</sup>).

Jesus and the disciples have already eaten the Last Supper (the Passover meal), but Caiaphas and the priests have not they have been so busy planning how to have the true Passover Lamb without blemish murdered that they haven't had time to eat the Passover meal. This is one of the reasons the priests did not go into Pilate's headquarters, they wanted to remain clean so they could eat the Passover meal.

This is a good example of how extreme legalism, tradition and pride can blind people to what is really important to God. They think remaining ceremonial clean is far more important to God than having an innocent man put to death. It is like the serial killer who murders prostitutes because of their immorality and all the time is totally blind to his sin of committing a far greater crime by murdering them such is the power of spiritual blindness. Added to the hypocrisy of the religious authorities actions and their absurd legalistic attitude to keeping rules and laws is the fact they are breaking their own law which states the Passover meal was to be eaten at sunset on the fourteenth day and now it is early morning, meaning sometime after midnight and they still have not eaten it.

**For further information see the title: -**

- Passover, in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**Pilate asked the Religious Authorities why they Accused Jesus.**

John 18:29-32 ----- <sup>29</sup>So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" <sup>30</sup>They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." <sup>31</sup>Pilate said to them "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." <sup>32</sup>This was to fulfil the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

Caiaphas and the priests were determined to have Jesus put to death, many of Moses laws had the death penalty and stoning was an accepted way of putting a person to death. The priests could judge and condemn a person to death according to Moses law, but they could not actually kill the person.

Also during the Roman era the priest had no power to administer capital punishment; under Roman law it was not lawful for them to put anyone to death that is why the Jews said to Pilate "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death" (v31) and why they had to appeal to him.

**This was to fulfil the Word that Jesus had Spoken.**

The words: -

- This was to fulfil the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die (v32).

Refer to the following words Jesus spoke to the disciples in John chapter twelve where he said: -

- When he is lifted up from the earth and raised on the third day, he will draw all people to himself (John 12:32-33) (Matt 20:19).

It is interesting to note that that under the law the Jewish method of putting someone to death was by stoning, so whenever Jesus death is stated in the words, "Lifted up from the earth" (referring to crucifixion) it is contrasting being put to death by stoning.

**Pilate asks Jesus if he is the King of the Jews.**

John 18:33-40 ----- <sup>33</sup>So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" <sup>35</sup>Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." <sup>37</sup>Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world— to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." <sup>38</sup>Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. <sup>39</sup>But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" <sup>40</sup>They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

Pilate has obviously heard of the rumours spreading throughout Judea that Jesus is the King of the Jews so he asks Jesus himself, but Jesus asks Pilate if he really asking because he wants to know who Jesus for himself or is he just asking because of what others are saying (v34) Pilate seems to be offended by Jesus question and tells him he is not a Jew it is his own people who have delivered him to Pilate.

## **My Kingdom is not of this World.**

Jesus says "If his Kingdom was of this world, his servants would have been fighting to protect and stop his enemies from taking him captive," and then repeats that "His Kingdom is not of the world" (v36). There is an important message in what Jesus is saying and that is that no Christian should go to war to defend what they believe or to defend God's Kingdom. God did not desire the apostles to protect His Son and Jesus told Peter to put his sword away.

If those who were with Jesus were not expected to protect their Lord and King God's only Son how much more should we not fight to protect what we believe. Jesus is setting the example for Christians to follow and that example is to lay down your life rather than take up weapons of war.

**NOTE:** this is not about self-defence obviously if someone breaks in your home to harm you or your family you are expected to do whatever you can to protect yourself and your family. The context of what Jesus is saying is in relationship to starting arguments, quarrels, fights and wars to protect what you believe or to defend the name of Jesus, in these situations Jesus is saying let it go, strive for peace and if forced to lay down your life rather than take up weapons of war and kill.

## **Jesus was born to be King.**

Jesus tells Pilate, "He was born to be King and to bear witness to the truth" (v37). The truth in this context is not all truth that is in the world (i.e., two times two is four is a mathematical truth and there is of course vast ocean of truth in the world), but it is not worldly truth Jesus has in mind. The truth Jesus is talking about is truth that relates to God's Kingdom and eternal life. Jesus statement, "Whoever loves what is true hears his message" (v37) Means whoever loves God and what He values hears what Jesus is saying contrasted to those who are prideful and full of selfish ambition as was the religious leaders of his generation.

## **The Jews tell Pilate to release Barabbas a Robber and Murderer.**

After finding no guilt in Jesus Pilate leaves him and goes outside to Caiaphas the high priest and the Jews with him (v28 -29). The Jews had a custom that on Passover Day the governor would release one Jewish prisoner of their choosing so he asks them if they would like the King of the Jews released and they ask for Barabbas a murderer and robber to be released (v39-40) (calling Jesus King of the Jews no-doubt stirred up their wrath even more). Barabbas; was an Israelite who was in prison because he started a revolution to overthrow the Romans he was accused of insurrection, rebellion, theft and murder.

(Matt. 27:16-26) (Mark 15:7-15) (Luke 23:18-25) (John 18:40) (Acts 3:14).

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End.