

The Forsaking of Jesus

John 18:1-40

I. HIS BETRAYAL BY JUDAS (John 18:1-14)

A. Christ Coming to the Garden (John 18:1-2)

1. A place of prayer (John 18:1; Luke 22:39-40)
 - a. Over the brook Cedron; another spelling for the brook Kidron (2 Samuel 15:23)
 - b. Where was a garden
 - 1) Arrested in a garden (John 18:1, 26)
 - 2) Buried in a garden (John 19:41)
 - 3) To conquer the sin problem that started in a garden (Genesis 2:8-9; Genesis 3:1, 8, 22-24)
 - a) Where man brought judgment on himself
 - b) Where man condemned himself to die
2. A place known to Judas (John 18:2)
 - a. He knew the **place**.
 - 1) A place of prayer
 - 2) A place where Jesus went often
 - b. He did not know the **person** – but betrayed Him.

B. Christ Confessing His Identity (John 18:3-6)

1. The band of soldiers (John 18:3)
 - a. Their leader – Judas
 - b. Their source – chief priests and Pharisees
 - c. Their tools
 - 1) Lanterns and torches
 - a) They had no light (John 3:19-20).
 - b) They came at night (1 Thessalonians 5:6-8).
 - 2) Weapons – carnal weapons of the flesh (2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-12)
2. The question of Jesus (John 18:4)
 - a. The fullness of His knowledge (Mark 10:33-34)
 - b. The forwardness of His action – “went forth” (John 14:31); at this point, there is no hesitation. Jesus is ready and prepared to fulfill the will of the Father.

3. The surprising admission (John 18:5)
 - a. Their search for Jesus of Nazareth
 - b. His reply, “I am he” (John 8:58)
 - c. In the presence of the betrayer
 4. The power of the Son (John 18:6)
 - a. The power of His words (Ecclesiastes 8:4; Luke 4:32; Hebrews 1:3)
 - b. The power of His person – the great **I AM** (Exodus 3:14)
 - c. The weakness of His enemies
 - 1) They went backward (Jeremiah 7:24).
 - 2) They fell to the ground.
- C. Christ Cooperating with the Soldiers (John 18:7-9)
1. His concern for the disciples (John 18:7-8)
 - a. He again identifies Himself (John 18:7-8a).
 - b. He asks His disciples to be released (John 18:8b).
 2. The fulfillment of His word (John 18:9, John 17:12)
- D. Christ Calming Simon Peter (John 18:10-11)
1. Peter’s single swing (John 18:10)
 - a. The sword of Peter
 - b. The right ear of Malchus
 - c. Application: When we fight the Lord’s battles with the weapons of the flesh, we only destroy the ability of the world to hear our message.
 2. Christ’s willing heart (John 18:11; Luke 22:50-51)
 - a. He instructs Peter to put up the sword.
 - b. He expresses His willingness to drink the cup (compare Matthew 26:42).
- E. Christ Arrested by the Soldiers (John 18:12-14)
1. Bound by the soldiers (John 18:12)
 2. Led to Annas (John 18:13-14)
 - a. The prominence of Annas (John 18:13)
 - b. The proclamation of Caiaphas (John 18:14; John 11:47-53)
- II. HIS DENIAL BY PETER (John 18:15-18, 25-27)
- A. Peter’s Progressive Backsliding (John 18:15-18; Psalm 1:1)
1. Peter followed (John 18:15; Luke 22:54).
 2. Peter stood (John 18:16, 18, 25).
 3. Peter sat (Luke 22:55).

B. Peter's Three Denials

1. To the damsel (John 18:16-17)
2. To the men (John 18:18, 25)
3. To the servant (John 18:26-27)

C. Peter's Bitter Repentance

1. The crowing of the cock (John 18:27; Luke 22:60)
2. The look of the Lord (Luke 22:61)
3. The conversion of Peter (Luke 22:31-34, 62)

III. HIS TRIAL BEFORE ANNAS (John 18:19-24)

A. His Questioning (John 18:19)

1. Of His disciples
2. Of His doctrine

B. His Defense (John 18:20-21)

1. The manner of His teaching (John 18:20)
 - a. He spoke openly.
 - 1) In the synagogue
 - 2) In the temple
 - 3) Where the Jews resort
 - b. He said nothing in secret.
2. The testimony of His doctrine (John 18:21)
 - a. No need to ask Him
 - b. Ask those who heard Him.

C. His Abuse (John 18:22-24)

1. He is struck by an officer (John 18:22).
 - a. With the palm of his hand
 - b. For not answering properly
2. He is refused explanation (John 18:23).
 - a. Bear witness of any evil (John 8:46)
 - b. The smiting itself is evil
3. He is sent to Caiaphas (John 18:24)

IV. HIS TRIAL BEFORE PILATE (John 18:28-40)

A. The Setting (John 18:28)

1. The time
 - a. Early in the day
 - b. Before the time of the Passover
2. The place
 - a. In the hall of judgment
 - b. Where the Jews could not go
 - 1) Lest they defile themselves before the Passover
 - 2) Note: yet they did not consider themselves defiled by the putting to death of an innocent man.

B. His Accusation by the Jews (John 18:29-32)

1. Their assumption (John 18:29-30)
 - a. No need to bring formal charges (John 18:29)
 - b. Just take our word that He is bad (John 18:30).
2. Their intention (John 18:31-32)
 - a. That He be judged by the secular court (John 18:31)
 - b. That He be put to death (John 18:31)
 - c. That He die the death of crucifixion (John 18:32)

C. His Questioning (John 18:33-38)

1. Are you the King of the Jews? (John 18:33-34)
2. What have you done? (John 18:35-36)
 - a. Pilate's assumption – delivered of His own nation (John 18:35)
 - b. Jesus' reply
 - 1) My kingdom is not of this world.
 - a) Or else my servants would fight
 - b) And I would not be delivered up.
 - 2) Now is my kingdom not of the world (Acts 1:6).
3. Are you a king? (John 18:37)
 - a. I came to bear witness of the truth.
 - b. I am heard by those who are of the truth (John 8:47).
4. What is truth? (John 18:38)
 - a. The scriptural answer:
 - 1) He is the God of **truth** (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 31:5; Isaiah 65:16)
 - 2) He is called "Faithful and **True**" (Revelation 19:11)
 - b. Pilate left before receiving an answer

D. Pilate's Initial Decision (John 18:38-40)

1. The testimony of Pilate (John 18:38)
2. The request of Pilate (John 18:39)
3. The rejection of the Jews (John 18:40)

E. Seven Accusations Made against Jesus

1. He perverted the nation (Luke 23:2).
2. He forbade tribute to Caesar (Luke 23:2).
3. He made Himself king (Luke 23:2; John 18:33-37).
4. He stirred up the people (Luke 23:5).
5. He was a malefactor (Luke 23:32-33; John 18:30).
6. He threatened to destroy the temple (Matthew 26:59-61; Mark 14:58; see John 2:18-22).
7. He made Himself the Son of God (John 19:7).