

JOHN 18-19

July 22, 2012

Today we'll be discussing **chapters 18 and 19** of the **Gospel of John**.

18:1-11 Who can tell us what takes place in verses 1 to 11 of chapter 18?

- Jesus goes to the Garden of Gethsemane (**Mark 14:32**). Judas comes there with Romans soldiers to arrest Jesus. When Jesus tells them who He is, the soldiers fell to the ground. Peter cuts off the ear of the High Priest's slave. **Luke 22:51** tells us that Jesus put the ear back on the man hurt by Peter's sword.

Does anyone know what "Gethsemane" means?

- It is the name of an olive "press" where olives were crushed.

What else took place in the garden that night?

- **See Matthew 26:36-46.** [³⁶Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." ³⁷ He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. ³⁸ He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." ³⁹ He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." ⁴⁰ Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? ⁴¹ Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!" ⁴² Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done." ⁴³ When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open. ⁴⁴ So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said, "Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Up, let's be going. Look, my betrayer is here!"] **NLT**

Why did Jesus pray what He prayed (three times) in the garden?

- Being God and knowing all that would take place (**John 18:4**), Jesus knew all that He was about to face. Emotionally, He would be deserted by His followers. Physically, He would be beaten to the point of death and then crucified. Spiritually, He knew that He would pay sin's penalty (**1 Peter 3:18**) and that He would be left alone by the Father and the Spirit (**Matthew 27: 46**).

Is the prayer of Jesus for "this cup to pass from Him" a sign of Jesus wanting to avoid the cross?

- No. Jesus had come into this world for this *hour* (**John 13:1,3**): to die for our sins. He prayed this so that we would read this and realize that there was no other way for us to be forgiven and saved; Jesus had to go to the cross and suffer His Father's wrath against sin (**Isaiah 53:2-6**).

18:5,6,8 What is the significance of the word *He* being in italics in John 18 verses 5, 6, & 8?

- *He* is not in the Greek New Testament. Jesus was saying that He was the great "I AM" of the Old Testament: He was declaring Himself to be God. **See John 8:56-59.** [⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ The people said, "You aren't even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I Am!" ⁵⁹ At that point they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple.] **NLT**

Who can think of some other "I AM" statements made by Jesus?

- All of these “I AM” statements appear in John’s Gospel: I AM the Bread of Life (6:35); the True Vine (15:1); the Light of the World (8:12); the Door of the Sheep (10:7); the Good Shepherd (10:11); the Resurrection and the Life (11:25); the Way, the Truth, and the Life (14:6).

18:10-11 Did Jesus need Peter to protect Him?

- No. He could have called *more than twelve legions of angels* (Matthew 26:53). A legion was 6,000 soldiers. Jesus could have called upon 72,000 angels to deliver Him had He chosen to do so. One angel in the Old Testament destroyed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night in 2 Kings 19:35.

18:12-27 Who can tell us what takes place in verses 12 to 27?

- Jesus appears before Annas (*ANN-us*). Peter was in the courtyard watching the Jewish leaders interrogate Jesus. Three times in that courtyard Peter was asked if he was one of Jesus’ disciples; three times Peter denied that he was. The “rooster crowed” after the third denial, just as Jesus said that it would in John 13:37-38.

What do you find to be interesting in verses 12 and 24?

- Jesus was “bound” / tied up. He was no physical threat and He made no attempt at escaping, and yet they treated Him like a dangerous criminal.

18:28 It is significant to know that Jesus was arrested at night when Jesus was arrested (18:3) and that He had been interrogated by Annus and Caiaphas (*KAI-uh-fuss*) during the night. They took Him to the Roman governor’s residence (the Praetorium {*pray-TOR-ee-uhm*}) first thing in the morning (18:28).

18:29-33 What do you find to be interesting about how the Jews approached Pilate?

- In verse 30 they don’t present a charge, they just defend their bringing Him. In verse 31 they have already decided that Jesus should die but don’t have the authority to execute Him; there are no plans for a “fair” trial.
- In verses 32 to 33 we see how God can use even the evil of man to accomplish His purposes. They will fulfill God’s prophecy (Psalm 22:6-18) in executing Jesus. Psalm 76:10 says that even the “wrath” of man will praise God. And God used Satan’s efforts to kill the Messiah by using Christ’s death for our redemption.

18:33-40 What takes place in verses 33 to 40?

- Jesus appears before Pilate and admits that He is a king, but that His kingdom is not of this world. Pilate tells the Jews that he finds no fault in Jesus. The Romans had a custom of releasing a prisoner each year at the Passover and suggests Jesus since He has done nothing to harm anyone. Instead, the Jews ask for the release of a robber named Barabbas (*buh-RAB-us*).

19:1-42 We are going to read the 19th chapter verse by verse. I will ask several of you to read certain sections of John’s account.

- **NOTE to the Group Leader** – Break the chapter up in these sections: 1-7; 8-12; 13-16; 17-22; 23-27; 28-30; 31-37; 38-42. Have a different person read each section. Assign the sections, and then read straight through the chapter.

19:11 What do we learn at the end of verse 11?

- Some sins are greater than others. It seems to imply that there is greater judgment for greater sins just as there is greater reward in heaven for greater obedience.

What do you think might make one sin greater than another?

- Some sins are private and essentially affect only the person committing the sin...such is the case of lust that is not expressed in action. When that lust does determine actions, then another person becomes involved in or hurt by the sin.

19:12-13 What do you find to be unusual in verses 12 to 13?

- In **verse 12** the Jews pretend to be loyal to Caesar. They threaten to go to Caesar to discredit Pilate if he does not execute this man who claims to be a king. Pilate buckles under the political pressure and sentences Jesus to be crucified.