

John 18:1-27 The Ultimate Betrayal

REVIEW: Jesus just finished praying to God the Father in preparation for what was soon to come...

He prayed for 3 things.

- 1.) His glorification of with the Father (17:1-5)
- 2.) The preservation and unity of His disciples (6-19)
- 3.) For all who would come to saving faith through the work of the Apostles. (17:20-26)

- His teaching & preaching ministry is now over...
- The only thing left undone in His mission is to make the ultimate sacrifice...
 - The payment for our sins... atonement...
- But first, a trip to a familiar place of prayer where He would wrestle with his greatest abhorrence...
 - Not a fear of death or dying...
 - Not a resistance to His own personal pain and suffering...
 - But the fact of the innocent, holy Son of God / God the Son, bearing the sins of the world and thus facing separation from God the Father even to the point of incurring His wrath! ...

----- PRAY -----

18:1-2 John explains that they had to cross **the brook Kidron** on the way to **this garden**. Kidron = black, murky, muddy, cloudy... And for a good reason...

At this time of year, this brook would be red with the blood of 200,000 lambs slain for the Jewish Passover...

- The Romans knew this was a major health hazard so they build a pipeline to wash the blood from the Temple mount and it ran down into the Kidron Valley into the brook...

The blood mixed with the water and turned it black.

How fitting that The Lamb of God Who would take away the sins of the world would have to cross over this bloody stream on His way to finish His mission...

(This brook no longer exists / It is completely dry)

He made his way to a garden of olive trees... Gethsemane = "Oil press" where His soul would be pressed to the point of sweating great drops of blood.

- Jesus had gone there often with His disciples to pray and commune with the Father...
- This was Jesus' habit and Judas knew it...
- Only this time was different...
- Rather than sweet fellowship He found His soul in great torment over what He was facing...

BTW – Do you have a favorite place to go to pray? ...
Do you have a habit of prayer? You should...

V:3 For some reason, John who had been detailing every minute of Jesus' last 24hrs chose to leave out some very painful detail of this hour that the other Gospel writers fill in...

Matthew, Mark & Luke tell us of His wresting prayer. They tell us of the disciples falling asleep and Jesus being in such torment as to sweat actual blood...

Chronologically, the aged Apostle John had already written the book of Revelation from Patmos. Detailing the power, majesty and glory of Jesus...

- But now living in Ephesus he writes this Gospel and choses to leave out these ugly details. Why?
- John was eyewitness of all these details...
- Yet John skips this & goes directly to the arrest...

V:3 NASB - "A Roman Cohort" = 600 men!
(Plus the religious police, chief priests & Pharisees...)

IMAGINE: No street lights... You can see a mob like this coming from a long way off. Yet because of the disciple's sleepiness, they were caught off guard...

How would you like to wake up to this? Startling!

All the world's troubles began in another garden...

- In that garden Adam was disobedient and fell.
- Here, Jesus the 2nd Adam obeys & conquers.
- There, the 1st Adam hid in shame.
- Here Jesus steps forward out of the crowd.

- There a sword was brought out into the open.
- Here a sword was put back into the sheath.
- There the sword was set up to guard the way to the tree of life...
- Here Peter attempts to guard the way to the tree of life (Jesus) with his sword.
- But now the way to the tree of life is open to all!

V:4a Jesus was not caught off guard... HE KNOWS...

He had already settled this with the Father...

“Not my will but Yours be done” ...

**The events unfolding here were locked in place
before the world began... “Peter” ...**

“...Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;” Acts 2:23, NKJV.

V:4b Jesus was indistinguishable from the others in the dark of the garden... No halo or glow...

V:5 Notice “*HE*” is in italics...

V:6 WHY? What is the significance?

“I AM” is the designation for **God Almighty!**

“Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What *is* His name?’ what shall I say to them?” And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” Exodus 3:13, 14, NKJV.

I wonder how many fell back? The religious leaders?

All 600 plus? ... Imagine! Though this is an impressive display of power, yet it is still a very humble fraction of the might and power of the Savior...

(I'm surprised nobody caught fire / went home...)

A word on "Slain in the spirit" ... ?

V:7-9 Don't miss Who is really in control here...

Who has the real power and authority here?

- Jesus will go with them...
- But He will go willingly...
- He let them arrest Him...

BTW - Often God allows something to happen that you might deem a terrible wrong...

But God is working in it behind the scenes! ...

When we respond in the flesh is when the terrible happens... **V:10-11**

Peter obviously didn't see Jesus was in control...

Perhaps Peter was determined to prove that he would never deny Jesus ... fight to the death...

- Luke doesn't tell us who did this... John does...
- Luke tells of the healing of the ear...

- It's significant that Jesus' last recorded healing was repairing the damage done by one of His disciples...
- I wonder how often He has to do that today? ...

How often Jesus' disciples try to solve a problem in the power of the flesh and do more damage...

Spiritual problems are NOT solved by the fleshy acts

V:12-14 EXPLAIN...

"Caiaphas" was high priest that year (V:13**b**)

- The Romans put Caiaphas in power because he was more submissive to Roman rule.
- Annas, (Caiaphas' father in law) was still called "the high priest" by faithful Jews...

V:14 A prophetic twist... (**John 11:50**) ...

V:15-18 Read and EXPLAIN... Mark tells us...

"But Peter followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he sat with the servants and warmed himself at the fire." Mark 14:54, NKJV.

How many sermons have you heard of the danger of "following Jesus from a distance"? ...

What causes one to do this? Fear of persecution ...

How many sermons I have heard about the dangers of "warming yourself at the enemies fire"? ...

What causes one to do this? (Undercover believer)...

SIN = Attempting to meet a legitimate need in an illegitimate way...

When you are acting out of fear and fleshy desires you set yourself up for a fall every time! (V:25-27)

“Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water...”
Psalms 1:1-3a, NKJV.

V:19-22 What is happening here?

Jesus is actually instructing the Jewish High Priest in proper protocol of the Law of Moses...

“Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.” Deuteronomy 17:6

V:23-24 I wonder if this officer ever got saved? ...

What a thing to have to live with... (Slap)

V:25-27 Small world...

Have you noticed how small a world we live in?
News of our sins seem to spread and come around.

We are told by both **Matthew** and **Luke** that after Peter denies Jesus 3X the rooster crows and The Lord makes eye contact with him and he goes out and wept bitterly... Peter had to come to the end of him self...

Peter was a man who thought he had so much to offer God. He thought too highly of himself...

So it is with us... We need to see who we really are. We need to see our need for His grace and power...

But as long as we are "full of self" and think ourselves "self sufficient" we will continue to founder...

Only when we come to the end of ourselves and are filled with His Spirit will we be victorious!

Peter had so many important lessons to learn yet. But it was only with the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost did Peter receive the unction that he lacked...

- Who is in charge of your life?
- Who is in control?
- Who has the power and authority?
- It is either you or HIM...
- All we can do in our flesh is fail....
- How we need to be filled with His Spirit...

PRAY

END