

Gospel of John Chapter 18:

vs. 1-11

Jesus and His disciples (excluding Judas), went east out of the city of Jerusalem across the Kidron valley and up into an olive grove [also known as the Garden of Gethsemane]. Jesus spent time there in prayer.

Judas appeared with a group of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. These soldiers could only have been secured by first getting the permission of Pilate. Pilate would have had to have been told as to why they were needed and then approve the action.

Jesus went out to meet them and because of His calmness and self-assurance the soldiers closest fell back to the ground. Jesus asks that His disciples be allowed to leave peaceably. Even in this hour of trial, His first thoughts are of those who follow and love Him. Prior to their safe departure, Peter takes a sword and strikes Malchus, cutting off his ear. Jesus rebukes Peter and heals Malchus there in the sight of the soldiers.

vs. 12-14

Jesus was bound and brought to Annas. Annas was a former high priest who saw many of his sons and son-in-law and even grandson go on to fill his place. Even though he was a former high priest, they brought Jesus to him. Caiaphas, the high priest, was the son-in-law to Annas and also had a part in the investigation.

vs. 15-18

Even though the disciples had scattered, Peter and John seem to have regrouped and are now trying to find out what is going to happen to Jesus. John, because of connections was able to get closest to find out what was going on. This being the case, his testimony and record are regarded as being the most complete. John has Peter brought closer. The girl who was keeping the door, asks Peter if he is one of Jesus' disciples. With Jesus having been led in bound and seemingly under the jurisdiction of those He had warned so strongly, Peter does not have the gumption to stand up for his Lord. Instead he denies Jesus. He stays by the fire with the others, to keep warm.

vs. 19-24

The questioning by Annas at the house of Annas, was not a trial by the Sanhedrin and therefore not bound by the same guidelines. The result of this questioning could not result in judgement or punishment, but was to be used to determine a charge that they could present to the Roman authorities.

Jesus, in accordance with Jewish law, tells the high priest to find witnesses who can vouch for what He said. These witnesses were considered the most reliable by the prosecution and defense in any trial; and Jesus suggests their value in determining His guilt, if any. Viewing this as disrespect, one of the officials strikes Jesus; as the high priest is to be highly honored and respected by the people. Annas, having apparently to have gained no decision, sends Jesus on to Caiaphas.

vs. 25-27

Peter is questioned again about his association with Jesus, and denies being a disciple. Finally, an eyewitness at the garden questions him and Peter denies it, only to realize the crowing of the rooster, his mistake.

vs. 28-40

The Jews take Jesus to see Pilate. Pilate asks them what charge they have come up with and are presenting before the court. A Roman court would not investigate unless a charge had been made. The Jews try to sidestep the issue and finally charge Jesus with being a King and a seducer of the people. Pilate could easily recall recent incidents of leaders trying to lead people into rebellion and would have wanted to prevent any such action. He inquires of Jesus who informs him, that He is not leading a rebellion, but that His Kingdom is from heaven. Pilate, apparently convinced of Jesus' innocence, tries to release Jesus on the basis of popular opinion asking the people to decide which one they wanted released: Barabbas [which means Son of the Father] who was guilty of leading a rebellion, or Jesus who was charged with leading a rebellion. Upon the influence of the religious leaders, Barabbas is released.

Gospel of John Chapter 19:

vs. 1-16:

Pilate, in an effort to get the people to realize their mistake, has Jesus flogged. The soldiers, as was typical in many cases such as this, taunt and ridicule the one who has been called a leader and one who would rule over the people.

Pilate has Jesus brought out in this bloodied and beat up condition, hoping that His appearance and Pilate's claim that this man is innocent will bring the people to their senses. When the people insist on having Jesus crucified, Pilate tells them to do as they wish, but he will have no part in the matter. This in most cases, would have caused the people to give up and leave the victim alone, but not in the case of Jesus.

The people stated that Jesus had claimed to be the Son of God. Pilate, concerned, questions Jesus again concerning the matter. When Jesus refused to answer, Pilate threatened Him, only to find that Jesus was not fearful of "his power". Pilate tries to get Jesus set free but the Jews would have no part of it. When Pilate presented Jesus to the people as their King, the people did the unthinkable, they claimed Caesar and the power of Rome as their king, which to a Jew was repulsive and was not to be done under any circumstances.

vs. 17-27:

Jesus was led out, carrying His own cross, to begin with. He was crucified between 2 thieves. Pilate had the cause for execution written on a board [as was customary] and then had it hung on the top of the cross where all could read.

The soldiers divide His clothing in accordance to prophecy. We find also present, 3 women besides Jesus' mother, Mary. John had probably gone to get her after Jesus was turned over by Pilate. Here at the cross, only John is present of Jesus' disciples. Jesus, in compassion and love, entrusts John with the care of His mother. John is recorded as being faithful to this takes Mary to his home. Much of the information provided by the other gospel writers, concerning Jesus' sayings, are omitted by John, which could be explained by the fact that he was taking Mary to his home and then returned in the last moments.

vs. 28-37

Realizing that all of God's will was completed, concerning Him being a sacrifice, Jesus allowed Himself to care for the pain of His physical body. Jesus, upon saying "It is finished", gave up His spirit.

In an effort to hasten the death of the victims, the bones of the legs were broken so that the person could not support themselves, making it easier to breathe. When they came to Jesus, He was already dead. They pierced His side and water and blood flowed out. This is interesting since it is recorded that Jesus "shed His blood" and that the ones who follow Him are to be immersed in "water" and will then have the "river of life" within them. All that took place was to fulfill the prophecy of Scripture. When one realizes that Jesus knew the pain He had to bear, yet He still came, they begin to realize the greatness of His love.

vs. 38-42

Joseph of Arimathea [Arimathea was probably within 10 miles north of Jerusalem] asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Both he and Nicodemus were part of the Sanhedrin, and both were secret disciples up to this point. Now they both come forward to recognize the one that they had come to believe in; and to honor Him through a proper burial. The spices would have been placed between the layers of the strips of cloth at various places around the body. They laid Him in Joseph's tomb and rolled the stone across the entrance way. A smaller stone would have been placed at the rear of the larger stone so that it would not move. Between these two stones, the seal would have been fixed; so that if anyone tampered with the tomb, it would be easily recognizable.

STUDY GUIDE

Gospel of John Chapter 18:

1. Who did Judas guide to the grove and what were they carrying?
2. What did Peter do with the sword that he had?
3. Who did the soldiers, commander & Jewish officials, first bring Jesus to?
4. Who was Caiaphas?
5. Who were following Jesus?
6. Who was the first person that Peter denied his Lord to?
7. What did the high priest question Jesus about?
8. Summarize Jesus' reply.
9. What was Peter doing, the second time he denied Jesus?
10. Describe the third person that Peter denied Jesus to.
11. Why did the Jews object to judging Jesus by their own laws?
12. When Pilate questions Jesus about His kingdom, what does Jesus say about it?
13. Who did the people choose over Jesus, when Pilate asked who he should release?

BONUS:

1. How do people, including Christians, betray or deny Jesus today?
2. How do people today, give Jesus and His Word an unfair hearing?

STUDY GUIDE

Gospel of John Chapter 19:

1. What happened between the time of the people choosing Barrabas & Jesus being brought back out?
2. In verse 7, for what reasons did the Jews insist that Jesus must die?
3. What did the Jews keep shouting, when Pilate tried to set Jesus free?
4. What did the soldiers do with Jesus upon arriving at the Place of the Skull?
5. What did the soldiers do with Jesus' clothing?
6. What did Jesus do, when He saw His mother there?
7. What happened after Jesus said, "It is finished"?
8. What happened when Jesus was pierced with a spear?
9. What 2 scriptures were fulfilled according to verses 36 and 37?
10. Who asked Pilate for the body of Jesus?
11. Why was Joseph a secret disciple of Jesus?
12. Who accompanied Joseph of Arimathea?

BONUS:

1. How do you react to all the punishment & pain that Christ went through for you?
2. How do Christians try to show their faith & service to Christ in private because of fear?
3. How should Christians demonstrate their faith?

