



Jesus, the Betrayed and Forsaken

Lesson 25 John 18:1-27

REVIEW

1. In John 17, Jesus was depicted as the Intercessor. He prayed for the manifestation of God's glory, and in His prayer, we saw His deity, His authority, His perfection and His preexistence.
2. He also prayed on behalf of His disciples, both His disciples who were with Him while He was on the earth and those who would follow Christ as a result of their words. The main theme of His prayer was unity, especially in light of the fact that Christ would be leaving them soon.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. In this lesson, we will see prophecy fulfilled as Jesus is betrayed, arrested, forsaken and denied by His disciples.
2. We will study John's account of the events in the Garden of Gethsemane and the subsequent trials before Annas and Caiphas.

BETRAYED IN THE GARDEN (18:1-11)

A. The Garden - 18:1-2

18:1 "When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples. **2** And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples."

1. "Over the brook Cedron" was the valley between the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives - 18:1
2. Identified as "Gethsemane" in other gospels - **Matthew 26:36; Mark 14:32**
3. "Judas...knew the place" - 18:2
4. "Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples"
 - a. "Resorted" means "to gather or bring together"¹
 - b. The language indicates that Jesus would often assemble His disciples in this garden
5. John omits the events in the garden leading up to Jesus' arrest, which were Jesus' special interaction with Peter, James and John, Jesus praying three times, Jesus finding His disciples sleeping on two occasions, the content of Jesus' prayers, etc.
Matthew 26:36-44; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46

B. The Betrayal - 18:3

18:3 "Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons."

1. The betrayal arranged - **Matthew 26:14-16**
 - a. "Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them". The betrayal was at Judas' initiative.
 - b. Judas "sold his soul" for thirty pieces of silver - **Matthew 26:15**
 - c. It was the fulfillment of Zechariah 11:12-13

¹ W.E. Vine, *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1968), 529.

2. The betrayal carried out - **John 18:3**

- a. *“Judas...received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees”*
 - i. The Passover feast would attract large crowds, so a band of men was commanded to keep watch at the porches of the temple
 - ii. This guard was at the disposal of the chief priests and was composed of Roman soldiers “stationed chiefly at the tower of Antonia, at the northwest side of the temple.”²
 - iii. There were also *constant* guards composed of Levites stationed around the temple,
- b. Judas brought them to the garden, and they came *“with lanterns and torches and weapons”*
- c. Other gospels tell us that Judas betrayed Christ with a kiss - **Matthew 26:49**

C. The arrest - **18:4-11**

18:4 “Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? **5** They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. **6** As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground. **7** Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. **8** Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way: **9** That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none. **10** Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. **11** Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?”

1. His omniscience - **18:4**

- a. *“Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him”*
- b. He asked them, *“Whom seek ye?”* If only they had been seeking Christ for the right reasons.

2. His identity - **18:5, 7-8a**

- a. *“They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth”*
- b. *“I am he”*
- c. Judas is no longer identified with the twelve, rather, *“Judas... stood with them”*

3. His power. When Jesus spoke they - **18:6**

- a. *“Went backward”*
- b. *“And fell to the ground”*
 - i. *“Fell”* means “to be prostrated, fall prostrate; of those overcome by astonishment or grief”³
 - ii. Same word that is used in Acts 9:4, 22:7

4. His protection - **18:8b-9**

- a. Even in the face of death, He cared for His disciples, *“Let these go their way”*
- b. His protection of them fulfilled Scripture - **17:12**

² Albert Barnes, *Notes on the New Testament*, Matthew (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2005), 290.

³ Joseph H. Thayer, *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984), 510, ref. 4098.

5. His purpose - **18:10-11**
 - a. Peter came to the defense of the Lord - **18:10; 13:36-37**
 - b. The Lord remained steadfast in His purpose - **18:11**
 - i. He told Peter to put away his sword
 - ii. He reminded Peter that His purpose in life was to drink of this cup given to Him by the Father
 - a) His purpose was to glorify the Father through His perfect obedience
 - b) His purpose was to lay down His life for the world
6. Matthew's gospel tells us that "*all the disciples forsook him, and fled*" - **Matthew 26:56**

THE TRIAL BEFORE ANNAS (18:12-23)

A. Jesus bound and taken to Annas - **18:12-13**

18:12 "Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him, **13** And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year."

1. Profile of Annas

- a. He "served as high priest from A.D. 6 to 15 when Pilate's predecessor, Valerius Gratus, deposed him. Though deposed, Annas was not without influence. He served...in the Sanhedrin and was the patriarch of a family that held the office of the high priest as late as A.D. 62. These included five sons and a son in law."⁴
- b. There was some question among the Jews whether or not a Roman official had the authority to remove the high priest from office. Some historians believe that "many of the Jews still looked to [Annas] as the high priest...[because] he was the real power behind the office that night."⁵
- c. "*He was father in law to Caiaphas*" - **18:13**
 - i. Caiaphas was the high priest
 - ii. Caiaphas was the one who God used to prophesy to the Jews regarding Jesus' death - **18:14; 11:49-52**

18:14 "Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people."

2. Peter's first denial - **18:15-18**

18:15 "And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. **16** But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter. **17** Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not. **18** And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself."

- a. Jesus had predicted Peter's denials - **John 13:38**

⁴ Elmer Towns, *John: Believe and Live* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2002), 181.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 182.

- b. Although the disciples had forsaken Jesus in the garden, two followed Him into the judgment hall
 - i. *“Simon Peter followed Jesus”*
 - ii. *“Another disciple”* who was *“known unto the high priest.”* Scholars almost unanimously agree that this disciple was John. - 18:15
- c. John’s contact with the high priest allowed them to enter the courtyard - 18:16
- d. Peter was questioned by the door keeper, *“Art not thou also one of this man’s disciples?”* - 18:17
- e. Peter’s denial, *“I am not”*
- f. Peter’s company - 18:18
 - i. *“Peter stood with them (the servants and officers)”*
 - ii. Compare John’s description of Judas in 18:5
 - iii. He was standing by the fire to warm himself, *“for it was cold”*
 - iv. John’s description here is undoubtedly intentional. The language gives a dark, sinister, cold “feel” to these events.

B. Jesus questioned by Annas - 18:19-21

18:19 “The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine. **20** Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing. **21** Why askest thou me? ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said.”

1. Jesus was questioned on two counts - 18:19

- a. *“His disciples”*
 - i. His desire was to find out how extensive the following of Jesus had become
 - ii. “Probably he thought Jesus had some organization...yet undiscovered to the outside world.”⁶
- b. *“His doctrine”*. He was questioning what Jesus had taught.

2. Jesus answered on one account - 18:20-21

- a. He didn’t answer the question about His disciples
- b. He answered the question about His doctrine
 - i. *“I spake openly to the world”*
 - a) *“Openly”* means with “freedom of speech, boldness”⁷
 - b) *“World”* means “the multitude or mass (as we say ‘the public’)”⁸
 - ii. *“I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort”*
 - a) *“Ever”* means “at all times, always”⁹
 - b) The synagogue and the temple were the main teaching centers of Judaism where Jews would congregate
 - iii. *“In secret have I said nothing”*. His doctrine and His teachings were well-known by the public.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Vines, 448.

⁸ Thayer, 357, ref. 2889.

⁹ Ibid., 476, ref. 3842.

iv. *“Why asketh thou me? ask them which heard me...they know what I said.”*

C. Jesus struck by an officer of the high priest - **18:22-23**

18:22 “And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so? **23** Jesus answered him, If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me?”

1. The officer obviously thought Jesus’ answer was inappropriate - **18:22**
2. Jesus corrected the officer - **18:23**

THE TRIAL BEFORE CAIAPHAS (18:24-27)

A. John excluded the details of this trial - **18:24**

18:24 “Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest.”

1. Remember that John wrote with a selective style. He did not intend to record every detail.
2. The other gospel accounts give insight into this trial
Matthew 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65, 70-72; Luke 22:59-65
 - a. Caiaphas had chief priests, scribes and elders assembled - **Matthew 26:57; Mark 14:53**
 - b. They sought false witnesses to testify against Christ, but the false witnesses couldn’t get their stories to agree - **Matthew 26:59; Mark 14:56**
 - c. The official charge was blasphemy as Christ claimed equality with God
Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62
 - d. Jesus was brutalized - **Matthew 26:67-68; Mark 14:65**

B. Peter’s second denial - **18:25**

18:25 “And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not.”

1. Peter questioned by those standing near the fire, “*Art not thou also one of his disciples?*”
2. Peter denied them saying, “*I am not*”

C. Peter’s third denial - **18:26-27**

18:26 “One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him? **27** Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.”

1. Peter questioned by someone who had seen him recently, “*Did not I see thee in the garden with him?*” - **18:26**
2. Peter denied the Lord again - **18:27**
3. Peter’s reminder, “*Immediately the cock crew*”
 - a. “*And when he thought thereon, he wept*” - **Mark 14:72**
 - b. “*And Peter remembered the word of Jesus... And he went out, and wept bitterly*”
Matthew 26:75; Luke 22:62

LIFE LESSONS

1. Stand strong in Christ. Judas betrayed the Lord and Peter denied him. The consequences of their actions were painful.
2. Rejoice in the steadfastness of Christ. Even though He had the power to walk out at any moment, He still went to the cross. - **Matthew 26:53**