



# John 18:12-27

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The actions of men accomplish  
the purpose of God



# The arrest of Jesus by the leaders of the Jews (18:12-14)

<sup>12</sup> So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. <sup>13</sup> First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. <sup>14</sup> It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

- The Jewish officials are the primary arresting officers, made clear from the fact that Jesus is brought to Annas and then to Caiaphas
  - Who is the high priest? Is it Annas or Caiaphas?
  - For the Romans, Caiaphas is the high priest
  - For many Jews, Annas is still high priest
- *"It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people."* - John records this from the earlier account
  - John 11:49-50
- What is happening is a miscarriage of justice based on religious politics, popularity and insecurity
- But God's sovereign saving purpose is ruling the day!

# Peter's denials being a disciple of Jesus (18:15-18)

- Peter and "*another disciple*" (likely John) followed Jesus to the palace of the high priests
- Somehow John is known by the high priest and members of his household
  - The girl keeping the gate knows him well enough to know John is a follower of Jesus
  - John gets the girl keeping the gate to allow Peter in
- Knowing John is a disciple of Jesus, she inquires if Peter is as well
  - Peter lies and tells her he is not
  - Peter caves because of intimidating and uncertain surroundings
    - This act of denial initiates his slippery slide
    - Who would have ever expected Peter to be the one to so openly deny his relationship to Jesus Christ?
- A night-time trial is typically illegal
- Feeling the pressure of time and circumstance, they obviously find legal loopholes

# Jesus confronts the injustice of His examination by the high priest (18:19-24)

## Verses 19-21

- Regarding His teaching, Jesus does not mean that he never spoke in private
  - He doesn't have a message for palatable public consumption
  - He doesn't have a private message for His followers promoting insurrection
- Any of the thousands who heard Him could be called as witnesses
  - Jesus is publicly confronting Annas with breaking the law
  - Witnesses should be called to substantiate the charges

# Jesus confronts the injustice of His examination by the high priest (18:19-24)

## Verses 22-24

- <sup>24</sup> *Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.*
- Jesus confronts injustice orchestrated by a person in a position of authority
  - As the God of justice, He calls injustice into the light
  - They are to abide by the law of the land
- Jesus does not hesitate to express the importance of justice, all the while knowing God's purpose will prevail through the injustice of man
- One of the officials guarding Jesus took issue with His response and slaps Him
- John includes this in his account because Jewish law prohibits physical abuse of anyone on trial

## Jesus confronts the injustice of His examination by the high priest (18:19-24)

- *“If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?”* - Jesus verbally confronts injustice
- Annas recognizes he is getting nowhere and sends Jesus to Caiaphas
  - If Jesus is to be brought before Pilate for a death sentence, He will have to be sent from the court of the Roman appointed high priest
  - The transfer through the courtyard also gives the occasion for the eye contact between Jesus and Peter at his final denial
    - Luke 22:59-62
- The Lord of truth and righteousness is not silent about lies and injustice

## Peter denies He knows Jesus two more times (18:25-27)

*<sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not."*

- The reason for giving the replies of Jesus to His accusers along with Peter's denials is to make the contrast stand out
  - Jesus stands up to His questioners and denies nothing
  - Peter cowers before his questioners and denies everything
- Peter continues his slippery slide

# Peter denies He knows Jesus two more times (18:25-27)

- The questioner wants to know if Peter was with Jesus in the garden
  - Peter denies it
  - John makes no mention of the oaths and curses
  - John says nothing of the eye contact between Peter and the Lord
  - John does not record the bitter tears
- The effect is to emphasize the fulfillment of Jesus' words to Peter
  - John 13:36-38
- Peter cannot faithfully follow Jesus until Jesus completes redemption's plan and sends the Holy Spirit
- Peter, of crucifixion eve, is a different and inspired man on the day of Pentecost
- As serious as it is to disown the Lord, we must also esteem the grace that forgave Peter and restored him to fellowship and service
- This means there is hope and power for us!



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