

Jesus and Peter

John 18:1-27

→ Read John 18:1-11

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. 2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4 Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" 5 They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. 6 When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. 7 So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." 8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." 9 This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." 10 Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) 11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

1. List all the things you know about where Jesus went from verses 1-2.
2. Who did Judas bring with him (verse 3)?
3. What does verse 4 say about Jesus? What is implied in this verse? How is this significant?
4. Why did the soldiers and officers fall to the ground in verse 6?

5. What is Jesus most concerned about in verses 8 and 9?
6. Summarize the responses of Simon Peter and Jesus in verses 10-11? How do the two responses differ? Why are they so drastically different?

→ Read John 18:12-14

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

1. Where is the first place Jesus is taken after he is arrested? Who are the two men mentioned?

→ Read Cross Reference John 11:45-53

45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, 46 but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47 So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. 48 If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." 49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. 50 Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." 51 He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, 52 and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. 53 So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

1. This council of the Jewish leaders took place after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. What did Caiaphas, the high priest, intend his words to mean when he spoke them? How did God speaking through the high priest give a different meaning to his words?

2. Why is it important that the author, John, reminded the reader of the words Caiaphas spoke at this point?

→ Read John 18:15-18

15 Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, 16 but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. 17 The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." 18 Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

1. Who is the focus of this paragraph?
2. How does Peter get into the courtyard of the house of the high priest?
3. Who is the first person to question Peter in verse 17?
4. Who was standing around the fire with Peter?

→ **Read John 18:19-24**

19 The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. 20 Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. 21 Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." 22 When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" 24 Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

1. What is the main point of what Jesus says in verses 20-21 when the high priest questions him?
2. What is he requesting in verse 23?

→ **Read John 18:25-27**

25 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." 26 One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" 27 Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

1. Peter denies the Lord a second time in verse 25 and the third time in verses 26-27. Who questions him the third time?

→ **Read John 13:37-38**

37 Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." 38 Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.

1. Why do the six little words at the end of John 18:27 have such a powerful impact?

Jesus is Purposeful

- A. Jesus goes to the garden knowing all that will happen to him.

- B. Jesus is looking out for the welfare of others.

- C. Jesus does not hesitate to display his deity.

- D. Jesus is determined to drink the cup the Father has given him.

- E. Jesus holds the Jewish leaders accountable.

- F. Jesus is steady though Simon Peter is weak.

Application: Jesus was selfless, compassionate and determined to see God's will done no matter what the cost. In ourselves, we are just like Simon Peter, but through God's strength we can imitate Jesus. How does the example of Jesus encourage and challenge you? How does the passage today cause you to worship God?