

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe  
Who Is In Control Here? (Part 1)  
John 18:1-27 (page 754)

Sunday, April 19, 2015

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Jesus is in control of the events that take place:

- in the Garden of Gethsemane (John 18:1-11)
  - concerning the treachery of Judas (vs 2-5)
  - concerning the arresting authorities (vs 6-9)
  - concerning the error of Peter (vs 10-11)
  
- in His willing submission (John 18:11-14)
  - to the will of His Father (v 11)
  - to the corrupt Jewish rulers (vs 12-14)
  
- in the presence of worldly injustice (John 18:19-24)
  - over unlawful tactics (vs 19-21)
  - over unjustifiable brutality (vs 22-24)
  
- in the fire of denial (John 18:15-18; 25-27)
  - in the face of interrogation (vs 17a, 25a, 26)
  - in the face of the truth (vs 17b, 25b, 27)

***Making it stick.....***

Jesus is Lord over every situation and  
circumstance

Jesus knows our weaknesses and wants to take us  
beyond them

## Growth Group Sermon Study Helps

John 18:1-27 (Week Thirty)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

### Intro:

Jesus now begins the first steps that will take Him to the Cross. This entire journey in chapters 18-19 are referred to as the "passion" of Jesus...meaning it relates to the suffering that He will endure prior to and during His time on the Cross. After coming before His Father in prayer at Gethsemane, He emerges from that time with a steadfast resolve that He is now to drink the "cup" His Father has prepared for Him and given to Him to finish. Yet, rather than cowering in fear or casting Himself upon the mercy of men, He stands confident and strong and is, in fact, (at least from my perspective) in control of all those who think He is under their control. From Judas, to the arresting party, to Annas and Caiaphas and even Peter...Jesus is center stage and He is directing the events rather than the events directing Him. What a Savior we have! What a mighty God we have Who redeemed us. The very people who think they have the power to decide the fate of God's Son are being moved by God's Son to do exactly what God intended from eternity past. He is not the victim...He is the LORD and moves all things to His intended purpose.

### Discussion Questions

Was there anything said on Sunday that got your attention, a particular point, or that you have a question about?

Identify from **vs 1-27** several ways that we see who is in control of these proceedings. How does this impact your view of Jesus? What does it do for your faith?

What do you think changed in Peter between his bold (but misguided) defense of Jesus in **vs 10-11** and his denial of Jesus in **vs 15-18, 25-17**? Does that have any impact on you? In what way?

In our passage, how does Jesus react to His enemies in contrast to how Peter responds? Explain.

What do Jesus' responses to all that is happening tell us about His mission? What does it tell us about how power is viewed in God's kingdom? Discuss.

What insights do Peter's actions and Jesus rebuke (**v 10-11**) give us about our attempts at times to "*help God out*" in our own strength and wisdom? Discuss.

Peter's denial of the Lord is well-known from the Bible. How easy is it even today to deny our Lord? Discuss.

Why does Jesus refuse to cooperate and answer Annas' question concerning the disciples and His teaching (**vs 19-21**)? Can we learn anything about our response to those who want to prove Jesus is not who we claim He is?

### Taking it to the streets....

Can you remember a time when you denied Jesus publicly? What did you learn from it? **Read John 12:42**...what is one of the main reasons that we often deny Him before others? What is another reason? What will you change in regard to how you respond to those hostile toward Jesus (or you) the next time?

How has this study in John 18 changed the way you see Jesus? How will it change your response in the way you face a time of testing? What new insights have you gained concerning the Kingdom of God and your involvement?