### John

## Chapter 18

1Well, after he said this, Jesus and his disciples crossed the Cedar (Kidron) Wadi, where they entered a garden.  
  
2Now, Judas (his betrayer) also knew of this place, because Jesus often met with his disciples there. 3So Judas brought along a contingent of soldiers and some officers from the Priests and Pharisees, who all arrived carrying torches, lanterns, and weapons.  
  
4And since Jesus knew everything that was about to happen, he asked them:  
  
 ‘Who are you looking for?’  
  
5And they replied:  
  
 ‘Jesus the Nazarene!’  
  
So he said:  
  
 ‘That’s me!’  
  
Well, Judas (his betrayer) was also standing among them. 6And when he said, ‘That’s me,’ they all backed up and fell to the ground.  
  
7So he asked them once more:  
  
 ‘For whom are you looking?’  
  
And they again said:  
  
 ‘Jesus the Nazarene!’  
  
8Then Jesus said:  
  
 ‘I told you, that’s me! And if I’m the only one you’re looking for, then let the rest of them go.’  
  
9He said this so that the words he spoke [previously] could be fulfilled:  
  
 ‘I haven’t lost even a single one of those You’ve given to me.’  
  
10And at that, Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the Chief Priest’s slave — cutting off his right ear (the slave’s name was Malchus)!  
  
11However, Jesus told Peter:  
  
 ‘Put the sword away… Shouldn’t I drink from the cup that the Father has given me to drink?’  
  
12Then the officer, his soldiers, and the Judean officials grabbed Jesus and tied him up.  
  
  
  
13Well, first they took him to AnNas, the father-in-law of CaiAphas (who was the High Priest that year). 14This was the same CaiAphas who had advised the Judeans that it was better for one man to die on behalf of the people.  
  
15Meanwhile, Simon Peter and another disciple followed behind Jesus. And since the Chief Priest was familiar with that disciple, he went into the Chief Priest’s courtyard along with Jesus, 16as Peter stood outside by the gate.  
  
Then the disciple that knew the Chief Priest went outside and spoke to the gatekeeper, and he brought Peter into [the courtyard].  
  
17But the servant girl who served as the gatekeeper said to Peter:  
  
 ‘You aren’t one of this man’s disciples also, are you?’  
  
And Peter said:  
  
 ‘No, I’m not!’  
  
18Meanwhile, all the servants and the officers were standing around warming themselves by a charcoal fire that they’d lit, because it was cold… And Peter was standing there with them, warming himself.  
  
19Well, the Chief Priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teachings.  
  
20And Jesus told him:  
  
 ‘I’ve spoken publicly before the whole world, and I’ve taught in the synagogues and in the Temple where all the Judeans meet. So, since I haven’t said anything in secret, 21why are you questioning me?  
  
 ‘Question those who heard what I said. See… They all know what I said!’  
  
22Well at that, one of the officers who was standing nearby slapped Jesus in the face and said:  
  
 ‘Is that any way to answer the Chief Priest?’  
  
23And Jesus replied:  
  
 ‘If I spoke in error, then testify that what I said was wrong.  
  
 ‘But if [what I said was] right, then why did you hit me?’  
  
24Well after that, while still tied up, AnNas sent [Jesus] away to CaiAphas, the High Priest.  
  
25Meanwhile, as Simon Peter was standing outside and warming himself, someone else asked him:  
  
 ‘Aren’t you one of his disciples?’  
  
But he denied it, saying:  
  
 ‘I’m not!’  
  
26Then, one of the Chief Priest’s servants (a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off) said:  
  
 ‘I saw you in the garden with him, didn’t I?’  
  
27But Peter denied it again, and immediately... A rooster crowed!  
  
  
  
28Well, early the next morning, they led Jesus from CaiAphas’ [home] to the Governor’s Palace. However, they didn’t go inside because they didn’t want to make themselves unclean, so they could eat the Passover.  
  
29As a result, Pilate came outside to them and asked:  
  
 ‘What’s your accusation against this man?’  
  
30And they replied:  
  
 ‘If this man hadn’t done anything wrong, we wouldn’t be handing him over to you!’  
  
31But Pilate said:  
  
 ‘Then take him yourselves and judge him by your own laws.’  
  
And the Judeans said:  
  
 ‘It isn’t legal for us to execute anyone!’  
  
32(This was said so that Jesus’ words would be fulfilled when he showed what sort of death he would die).  
  
33So then, Pilate went back inside the governor’s palace, where he called for Jesus and asked him:  
  
 ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’  
  
34And Jesus replied:  
  
 ‘Is it your idea to ask this, or did others tell you about me?’  
  
35So Pilate said:  
  
 ‘I’m not a Jew am I?  
  
 ‘Your own people and Priests handed you over to me… So what did you do?’  
  
36And Jesus said:  
  
 ‘My Kingdom isn’t from this world.  
  
 ‘If my Kingdom was from this world, my followers would likely have fought [for me] so I wouldn’t be handed over to the Judeans… But my Kingdom isn’t from here.’  
  
37And Pilate said:  
  
 ‘Then, are you a king?’  
  
And Jesus replied:  
  
 ‘You’re the one who’s saying that I’m a king.  
  
 ‘The reason why I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth, and everyone who’s on the side of truth listens to my voice.’  
  
38Then Pilate asked:  
  
 ‘What is the truth?’  
  
And after he said this, he went back outside to the Judeans and told them:  
  
 ‘I haven’t found any reason [to hold this man].  
  
 39‘So, since you usually ask me to release someone to you on the Passover, do you want me to release the King of the Jews?’  
  
40But they shouted repeatedly:  
  
 ‘Not him, but BarAbbas!’  
  
Now, BarAbbas was a robber.