

The Gospel of John: The Betrayals

John 18:1-27

Betrayed & Arrested (v. 1-14)

- After Jesus finishes His prayer, He finishes the journey to the Garden of Gethsemane
 - The Synoptics tell that Jesus spent time in solitary prayer in the Garden before His arrest
- Judas leads the soldiers, officials, & Pharisees to have Jesus arrested
- Jesus acts proactively to avoid His disciples being arrested as well
 - He even heals the ear of Malchus, which Peter cuts off (Lk 22:51), and asks for the disciples' release
 - This reflects Jesus' earlier words (6:39a)
- Jesus makes it clear to Peter & those listening* that the way for Him to fulfill His mission is through the Cross, not violence (Matt 26:52-53; cf. Jn 18:11)
- Jesus' statement "I am He" may be seen as a declaration of His divinity, as "I Am"/YHWH is God's self-disclosed name in the OT (Ex 3:14)
 - The guards' falling to the ground seems to indicate that this is a theophany, and yet, they still arrest Him
 - Theophany: Self-revelation of God's glory

Questioned & Denied (v. 12-27)

- Jesus is brought to Annas, the former high priest, and father-in-law of the current high priest Caiaphas
- He is questioned about His teaching and disciples
 - He responds that His teaching was public and well-known gets Him slapped
 - He is then sent on to Caiaphas
- Meanwhile, Peter & an unnamed disciple have followed from a distance
 - The unnamed disciple has connections that allow them access to the courtyard to overhear Jesus being questioned
 - While there, Peter is asked 3 times whether He is Jesus' disciple, denying it each time
 - After the final time, a rooster crows, thus fulfilling Jesus' prediction (Jn 13:38)

So What?

- Even in our betrayal & abandonment, Jesus does not turn His back on us.
- Do we truly comprehend the great love He has for us?
- Are we seeking to fulfill Jesus' mission in Jesus' way?
 - Or do we, like Peter & Judas, try to do it in worldly ways?

Meditation Verse: Romans 5:10

Next Week: John 18:28-19:16a