

Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of March 27, 2022

John 18:15-27

Sermon Series: *This is Love*

This week revolves around Jesus interrogation. Two different views: (1) the view inside, with the officials and Jesus, and (2) the view outside, on the courtyard of Annas, where Peter is located.

SHARE

Who, in your circle, seems to respond well even when circumstances are difficult?

There is a huge contrast to the way Jesus and Peter responded in difficult and painful circumstances.

LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD

We are walking through the hours of Jesus' arrest and interrogation. As difficult as this is to observe, we can learn much about the character of Jesus (God). Let's look, listen, and feel as the Son of God is in the crucible. Read John 18:15-27

What happens in these hours? (Who, what happens, etc.)

- The story weaves Peter's and Jesus' experiences.
- Peter attempts to listen in while hiding his identity. In fear, he denies Jesus
- Jesus is interrogated, abused. They reject that He is the Messiah
- Peter again denies association with Jesus two more times.

What questions was Peter asked? How does Peter react to those questions? Why do you think he responded that way?

A few observations:

- ¹⁷ "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" the girl at the door asked Peter. He replied, "I am not." The words, "I am not" are the exact opposite of Jesus claim to be the "I am", God's name (YHWH).
- "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not."
- ²⁶ One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?" ²⁷ Again Peter denied it.

Peter's responses seem to be out of fear. (cf. John 13:37)

The high priest questioned Jesus about "His disciples" and "His teaching." Why might Jesus have been such a concern to him and other authorities? (19)

The officials considered themselves the guardians of the truth about the Messiah. They objected to Jesus teaching with authority. Also, they could see that His popularity and following was rapidly expanding. They feared their loss of power in multiple places and ways.

What was Jesus response to the high priest's questions? How did Jesus answer his questions? (20-22)

Jesus responded to the second question first. He reminded them that all that He taught was done in public, not secret. He had taught in the temple. Secondly, He indicated that they could ask people what He taught. That included His disciples (two of which were just outside). But alas, Jesus had to face this trial alone.

How do you feel when reading about Jesus (our Creator, Savior, Lord) being struck in the face by an official? How did Jesus respond at the time? (vs. 22-23. See also Luke 23:34)

This is so sad – that the One who loves us like no other, the One who will suffer our wrath, was treated with such hatred and violence. This is truly horrifying.

Jesus responded by questioning their judgment: ²³ "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?"

He is indeed the Merciful One who is dying for us. But He is also the Righteous Judge questioning their judgment of Him. Ironic!

This story goes back and forth between the interrogation of Jesus by officials and the actions of Simon Peter. What is the relationship between these two examples? Why do you think the author (John) wove these two stories together?

There is a contrast to way Jesus and Peter respond. There are also two groups of people who deny Jesus: the officials and Peter. The result of both was that Jesus was alone – facing the wrath for our sin.

What do you think it meant to Jesus to see Peter deny Him? What do we learn about Jesus from the way He reestablishes Peter in John 21?

I believe it was painful for two reasons. First, Jesus was fully human. He felt the pain of Peter's denial. Second, Jesus felt the pain of Peter's failure. He knew that this would cause Peter great pain.

Later, when Jesus restores Peter in John 21, Jesus goes out of His way to let Peter declare his love for Jesus three times just as Peter denied Jesus three times. He shows great grace, understanding, and mercy.

THIS WEEK

O family of God. I feel anger and sadness as I read of Jesus being falsely accused and being struck "in the face" by an official. I also feel sad to read that Jesus' close follower denied him. And then - I learn of Jesus' mercy, Jesus' patience, and Jesus' kindness. This week, let's dwell on the mercy and kindness of Jesus, our Savior and Lord and learn of how we should respond to adversity in our worlds.

The grace and kindness of our Lord melts my heart. I desire to be like Him and show his kindness.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

In this passage, we see Jesus, the Creator, the Savior, the Lord, being interrogated, falsely accused, denied, abused, and rejected. What kind of God is this?

What kind of love is this? All the things that I hate most, happened to our Lord Jesus. God declared His essence in the Old Testament: "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin." Exodus 34:6-7

Jesus demonstrated the character of God in this passage.

I hate reading about the authorities and even Peter denying Jesus. And yet, I know that I sometimes do the same. What are ways that we sometimes deny Jesus? (i.e. our association with Him)

Examples: When we have opportunity to reveal why we are doing something and don't share it because we love Jesus; when we are around unbelievers and act like them, when we hear people declare their questions about life and don't share how God has answered them. There are so many ways to glorify Jesus every day.

Peter, a close follower of Jesus and an apostle, was frightened or caught off guard by "a servant girl at the door." How can we be prepared or be different? How can we live so that we're not caught off guard by the difficult relationships and testing of our faith in our worlds?

Throughout the gospels, Jesus is demonstrating what it looks like to be faithful to God every day. He said that He spoke the words of God. We can do that by treasuring the words of God. Jesus said that He did the works of God. We can pray and trust God daily to do the same works – Jesus promised this. (John 14:12). As we live this lifestyle of abiding in God (obedience, prayer, love for one another, following His words – John 15), our auto-response becomes like we see in Jesus.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please pray for our Elders as they pray and work to shepherd our family
- Please pray for our upcoming Easter services as we proclaim the resurrection of Jesus
- Please pray for Josh and Katie Lee as he begins his role as Student Ministries Pastor

May our Father give you understanding, power, and grace as you shepherd God's family.

Steve