

## C H A P T E R

# ◇ 18

Chapters 13 through 17 of John contain the teaching of Jesus and His prayer for His disciples, all designed to prepare them for His death and to give them strength for the days to follow when they would feel very much alone. The synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, contain very little of the teaching found in these chapters. On the other hand, John's account contains very little concerning the "Last Supper" and nothing of the agony in Gethsemane. Chapter 18 contains the account of the betrayal, arrest, and the trial of Jesus before Pilate. It also tells of Peter's denial of his Lord and the rejection of Jesus in favor of Barabbas by the Jewish mob. Read the entire chapter.

*Verse 1.* After finishing His prayer, Jesus went over the brook Cedron and into a garden. From the accounts of the other gospel writers, we can safely assume they went out of the upper room where they held the Passover Feast and where Jesus had given the previous discourse, and into the Garden of Gethsemane with His disciples.

**367.** After Jesus had finished His discourse, He and His disciples crossed over the brook \_\_\_\_\_ and into a garden.

*Verses 2 and 3.* Judas was familiar with the custom of Jesus to retire with His disciples to this garden for meditation and prayer. So, expecting to find Jesus there, he led a large band of lantern and torch-carrying officers and men, sent by the Chief Priests and Pharisees. They carried weapons also, for they probably expected the disciples to put up a stiff resistance to the arrest of Jesus.

**368.** The party of armed men, sent out by the Jewish leaders to arrest Jesus, was led by \_\_\_\_\_.

*Verses 4 through 6.* All three of the synoptic writers agree that Judas did greet Jesus with a kiss, a sign agreed upon beforehand in order to make certain they were getting Jesus. You will remember that attempts to arrest Him had been made previously but had failed because of the crowds who were friendly toward Him. That was the reason it was determined to seize Him after dark and, why they had paid Judas the 30 pieces of silver to identify Him. It is possible that since these details had already been reported, John did not think it necessary to repeat them. McGarvey thought that Jesus first disclosed Himself, showing that He was in charge of the situation, and had no fear of the outcome. But Judas went ahead with the betrayal kiss as planned, possibly fearing he would not receive the promised reward if he failed to do this.

**369.** When Jesus saw the armed mob approaching, He went forth to meet them. He asked them, "Whom do you \_\_\_\_\_?" and they answered, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus answered, "I am He," showing that He had no fear of what they could do to Him. They were so astonished that they went backward and fell to the ground.

**Verses 7 and 8.** They were so astonished that they were speechless, so Jesus asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" Again their reply was, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I have already told you that I am He. Now let these (His disciples) go their way." Jesus thus demonstrated His loving concern for His disciples, for He did not wish them to suffer on His account.

**370.** Jesus showed His \_\_\_\_\_ for His disciples when He said, "I am the man you seek. Let these men go their way."

**Verse 9.** Jesus, in the prayer for His disciples, as recorded in Chapter 17, verse 12, said to the Father, "Of those you have given Me, I have kept them all." It would seem to mean that He had kept them from being overcome by Satan. It does mean that, but it also means more. When they were all in a small boat on the Sea of Galilee, He kept them from being "lost" by quieting the storm. Here again, He protected them from physical harm.

**371.** Jesus has the power to \_\_\_\_\_ from harm, both physical and spiritual, those who have committed themselves to Him.

**Verses 10 and 11.** In these verses, it is reported how the impetuous Simon Peter drew his sword and cut off the ear of Malchus, the servant of the high priest. Jesus rebuked Peter telling him to put away his sword, and the synoptic writers related that Jesus healed Malchus' ear.

**372.** When Peter sought to resist the seizure of Jesus, Jesus told him to \_\_\_\_\_ his sword.

**Verses 12 and 13.** Then the Jewish officers and soldiers took Jesus, tied Him up, and led Him to Annas, who was the father-in-law to Caiaphas.

**373.** The Jewish officers \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_ Him up, and \_\_\_\_\_ Him to Annas.

**Verse 14.** According to the law, there could be only one High Priest, but Luke spoke of the year in which Annas and Caiaphas were the High Priests.

It seems that Annas was deposed by the Romans and Caiaphas was made High Priest. So Caiaphas was the one who had counseled that Jesus should die, for it was better that one man should die than that the whole nation be wiped out.

**374.** Jesus was first led before Annas and then before Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the one who had given counsel that it was better that \_\_\_\_\_ die than that the whole nation be wiped out.

**Verses 15 and 16.** It was undoubtedly John, the writer of this Gospel, who was known to the High Priest and was allowed to enter his chambers. When he realized that Peter was still outside, he went out and brought him in.

**375.** John and Peter were allowed to \_\_\_\_\_ the chambers (house) of the High Priest because John was \_\_\_\_\_ to the High Priest.

**Verse 17.** The maiden who kept the door asked Peter if he were not one of Jesus' disciples, but he denied it. It seems that Peter and John had more courage than the rest of the disciples, for they were the only ones who followed Him to the judgment hall; however, Peter made a big mistake when he denied that he was a disciple of Jesus.

**376.** When he was asked by the maiden who kept the door, Peter \_\_\_\_\_ that he was one of Jesus' disciples.

**Verse 18.** The servants of the High Priest and the officers, had made a fire of coals and were warming themselves. Peter stood with them and warmed himself. His desire to appear as one of the group so that he would not be questioned may have been his real motive.

**377.** Peter's \_\_\_\_\_ of being identified as a \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus was probably his strongest reason for standing with the crowd by the fire.

**Verse 19.** The High Priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and what he was teaching them.

**378.** The High Priest asked Jesus about His disciples and what He was \_\_\_\_\_ them.

**Verses 20 and 21.** Jesus' answer was that He had always talked openly, had nothing to hide, and if they really wanted to know what He had said they needed only ask those who heard Him. That would include most of the people gathered at the Passover feast. Jesus knew that this was not a sincere question. The questioner was trying to trap Him into saying something that could be used against Him.

**379.** Jesus realized that His questioner was not sincere, so He answered by saying that if they wanted to know what He \_\_\_\_\_ they could ask the people who heard Him.

**Verses 22 and 23.** When Jesus had finished speaking, the officer standing by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand saying, "Is that the way to answer the High Priest?" Jesus' answer was substantially this, "You were wrong in punishing Me, suggesting that My evidence was a lie, and if I spoke the truth, why should I be punished?"

**380.** Jesus answered the man who struck Him by saying, "If I \_\_\_\_\_ you should have brought a witness to prove it before punishing me. If I told the truth, why punish Me?"

**Verses 24 and 25.** Most of the commentators agree that the previous questioning was by Annas and that it was at this point that He was sent to Caiaphas. Peter was probably in the courtyard, standing by the fire, warming himself. Again some members of the crowd said to him, "Are you not one of His disciples?" He said, "I am not."

**381.** This verse records that, at this point, Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas. Peter, standing by the fire in the courtyard, \_\_\_\_\_ his Lord again.

**Verses 26 and 27.** Now one of the high Priest's servants, who was a relative of the man whose ear had been cut off by Peter, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" Peter denied again and immediately the rooster crowed.

**382.** Peter \_\_\_\_\_ his Lord the third time and immediately the rooster crowed.

**Verses 28 through 31.** As recorded in the synoptic gospels, the trial before Caiaphas was a farce. The only charge that they could bring against Jesus under Jewish law was blasphemy. This would have been true if He were not who He said He was, but to prove the charge of blasphemy would do them no good, as it would not be a crime under Roman law. However, they decided to take Him to the Roman court and to try Him before Pilate. They hoped to create enough trouble to force Pilate to accede to their demands. They knew Pilate was an unprincipled politician whose job it was to keep the Jews quiet and submissive. They knew that his job, and very likely, his life depended upon his success in accomplishing this.

**383.** The Jewish leaders were in a quandary. Under Roman law, they could not put a person to death and they could not find any serious crime Jesus could be charged with which carried the death penalty under \_\_\_\_\_ law. Therefore, they took Him before Pilate, hoping to create such a disturbance that it would \_\_\_\_\_ Pilate to grant their request.

**Verses 31 through 32.** The Jews would have been ceremonially defiled if they had entered the Gentile judgment hall, therefore, they stayed outside and Pilate came

out to them. He asked them, "What accusations do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If He were not a criminal, we would not have brought Him to you." Pilate asked them why they did not take Him and judge Him according to their law and the Jews answered that it was not legal for them to put a man to death. They did it at times, by stoning, and Rome seldom interfered. Jesus knew beforehand that He would meet death at the hands of the Romans by crucifixion and He had foretold it in somewhat veiled terms. See John 3:14; 12:32,33. This is the reason that things turned out in this fashion, that prophecy might be fulfilled when He foretold the manner of His death. (Numbers 21:4-9)

**384.** When Jesus said, "And I, when I be lifted up, shall draw all men unto me," He was prophesying the \_\_\_\_\_ of His death, that is, the crucifixion.

*Verses 33 through 35.* Pilate returned to the judgment hall and called Jesus in to question Him. Pilate asked Him, "Are you King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Did you think this up yourself or did someone prompt you to ask it?" Pilate replied, "Am I a Jew? Why did your own people deliver you up to me if you have committed no crime?" Jesus' mission on His first advent was to set up a spiritual kingdom, the church, which was to seek and save the lost. If Jesus had admitted He was a king, Pilate would not have understood, so Jesus gave an evasive answer.

**385.** Pilate emphatically declared that he was no Jew and was not conversant with the Jewish laws and customs, but the Jews would certainly not have brought accusations against one of their well-known religious leaders before a Roman court if he had not \_\_\_\_\_ some crime.

*Verses 36 and 37.* Jesus commented further, "If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight to keep Me from being arrested by the Jews, but now My kingdom is not of this world." Pilate again asked Jesus if He was a king. Jesus replied, "You said it, and it is for this purpose that I was born into the world."

**386.** Jesus declared that if His plans were to set up a worldly kingdom, His servants would \_\_\_\_\_ to keep the Jews from taking Him. That His servants did not put up a fight is evidence that He had no such \_\_\_\_\_.

*Verses 37 and 38.* Jesus continued, "I came into this world to bear witness to the Truth, and every one who loves the Truth, hears and obeys My words." Pilate said, "What is Truth?" Then he went outside and said to the Jews, "I find Him not guilty of any crime." Pilate's remark, "What is Truth" is what we call today a "wisecrack." It sounds smart, but says nothing. But Pilate was smart enough to see through the duplicity and knew that Jesus posed no threat to Roman rule.

**387.** Jesus said He came into the world to bear witness to the \_\_\_\_\_  
and everyone who loves the \_\_\_\_\_ will become My follower.

Pilate said, "What is \_\_\_\_\_?" Then he said to the Jews, "I find He has  
committed no \_\_\_\_\_."

**Verses 39 and 40.** There was a custom that at the time of the Passover, a Jewish  
citizen under sentence of death would be set free by the Romans. It seems that the  
Jewish populace would choose the one to be freed. Pilate gave them the choice of  
Jesus or Barabbas. The Jews chose Barabbas, who was a robber.

**388.** When given the choice, the Jews chose Barabbas to be \_\_\_\_\_,  
rather than Jesus.

***ANSWERS:***

367. Cedron  
368. Judas  
369. Seek  
370. Loving concern  
371. Keep  
372. Put away  
373. Took, tied, led  
374. One man  
375. Enter, known  
376. Denied  
377. Fear, disciple

378. Teaching  
379. Taught  
380. Lied  
381. Denied  
382. Denied  
383. Jewish, force  
384. Manner  
385. Committed  
386. Fight, plans  
387. Truth, Truth, Truth, crime  
388. Released