

The Gospel of John #8

February 2, 2020 (John 18:1-12) See also Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-53

- 1) Why do the Pharisees want to take advantage of the night to arrest Jesus? V3
- 2) What do you think was Jesus' purpose in going out to meet his aggressors? What did that accomplish? V4
- 3) A group of armed soldiers, plus officials, were there to take Jesus. What is the reason for their reaction in v6?
- 4) Should Peter be admired and respected for his reaction (v10), or should he have known better than to take such action? Explain.
- 5) Given Jesus' peaceful reaction when approached, why would the soldiers and others with them still bind him (v12)? Who's afraid of whom here? Why?
- 6) What do you think would be the reaction of most Christians today if they had been in the disciples' place at this time?

February 9, 2020 (John 18:12-14 and 19-24) See also Mk 14:53-65; Lk 22:54, 63-65

- 1) Jesus was first taken to Annas, father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest at that time. Why do you suppose Annas was apparently "consulted"?
- 2) Annas did not immediately begin accusing Jesus, but questioned him about his disciples and teaching (v19)? Why would he have taken this approach?
- 3) Jesus did not give direct answers to Annas (v20), but only refers to what He has said in his previous teachings. Why would He have done that?
- 4) Does Jesus' question and statement in v21 seem to be of a rude or challenging nature? If so, what do you suppose His purpose was?
- 5) How do Jesus' answers in v23 expose this trial as a mockery?
- 6) What does Jesus' example suggest for our conduct when facing authority?

February 16, 2020 (John 18:15-18 and 25-27) See also Mt 27:69-75; Mk 14:54, 66-72

- 1) Peter (and another disciple) was able to get into the courtyard where Jesus was. What do you think he hoped to do?
- 2) Did going into the courtyard show guilt, curiosity, impulsiveness, or courage on Peter's part? Explain.
- 3) It seemed relatively easy for Peter to calmly respond the first two times he was confronted. (Maybe a "little white lie" in his mind? Doing it for a good reason?) What would be the response of most Christians today if in similar situation?
- 4) Refer to Luke 22:60-61. Could this be called "Peter's moment of truth"? What impact might this experience have had on Peter in his ministry following this?
- 5) It seems interesting that this series of denials is recorded in all four Gospels, with some variation in details. What might be the reason or purpose for this?
- 6) What lessons can we learn from these recordings of Peter's denial?
- 7) Trivia question: What non-verbal communication do you think might have taken place with the other disciple?

February 23, 2020 (John 18:28-38) See also Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-5

- 1) What is the irony in v28? What would be the explanation for that? Does that rationale show itself today?
- 2) What insight do we get of Pilate from his initial response to the Jews' request? Why didn't the Jews just give the judgment they wanted?
- 3) What was Pilate's motivation in asking his question in v33?
- 4) What is your reaction to the way in which Jesus answered his question in v34? Would you have answered in the same manner?
- 5) V35 – Pilate asks, "What is it you have done?" What is Jesus' purpose in answering as he does in v36 – explaining about His kingdom? Pilate understand?
- 6) What did Pilate mean by his question, "What is truth?" What is his purpose in asking that question?

March 1, 2020 (John 18:39-19:16) See also Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:6-25)

- 1) What was the purpose of Pilate's actions in vv1-5? What was the result? Why?
- 2) V7 - The Jews said they had a law that one who claimed to be the Son of God must die. Why did that statement make Pilate afraid (v8)?
- 3) V11 – What did Jesus mean by "the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin"? Who was He referring to? Is there such a thing as "a greater sin"?
- 4) After experiences of witnessing Jesus' miracles, hearing his teachings, and praising Him, why do the people now want to crucify Him? (V6; V15)
- 5) Sometimes Jesus doesn't answer (v9); sometimes he does (v11). (And there are other examples) When is it appropriate to not answer or respond to someone?
- 6) Pilate was obviously trying to avoid, or redirect, the responsibility of condemning Jesus. Why – what reasons? Was he successful? What reasons do people use today to avoid accepting responsibility?

March 8, 2020 (John 19:16-27) See also Mark 15:16-23; Luke 23:26-33

- 1) Do you think it was coincidence that Jesus was in the middle of the three being crucified? (v18) What was the significance of that arrangement?
- 2) Why was Pilate so insistent about leaving the inscription on the cross the way he had written it? (v22). Why did the chief priests want to change it? (v21)
- 3) Given Jesus' mother's faith in him at the outset of his ministry (Jn 2:3-5), what must she be feeling now? Obviously grief – but what else perhaps?
- 4) In v28, what did John mean when he said that Jesus knew that all things were now finished so that Scripture might be fulfilled?
- 5) John does not record other things that happened at Jesus' death as in Mt, Mk, and Lk – tearing of temple veil, earthquake, etc. What might be the reason(s)?
- 6) "Come, follow me". "Feed my sheep". "It is finished". Do these 3-word statements of Jesus summarize His mission? Are there others?