

Gospel of John: That You Might Believe

[John 18:1-27](#)

“Betrayed, Denied, & Questioned”– November 7, 2021



Introduction

John 20:31 gives us the key to interpreting John's Gospel. Wherever you read it, you should ask, "how does this help me believe that Jesus is the Christ?" "How does this help me believe in Him that I might have life in His name?" "Christ" is Jesus' title that means "the Anointed One" or "the King." He is the King of kings - the Lord of lords sent by God to crush the head of Satan and make all things new in a world that is broken by sin.

Usually a king's coronation means prompt, majesty and grandeur. Jesus' "coronation" is much different than what we would expect. In John 13:35 Jesus says, "Now is the Son of Man glorified." His disciples expect a glorious coronation. But Jesus' coronation is a one of humiliation. He is betrayed by Judas. He is denied by Peter. He's questioned and ultimately nailed to a cross. So for the disciples watching this in real time, this humiliation may have tempted them to believe that maybe Jesus isn't the Christ.

A lot of people today are good with the idea of a Jesus that they have created in their mind. But when He confronts us with sin in our hearts and the demands of walking with Him, excitement fades, and people walk away. Is Jesus your king today? Having Him as your king means following Him on the path to humiliation - first the cross, then the crown.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Jesus is in control. Vs. 1 - 12
- II. Jesus is innocent. Vs. 13 - 27

Read & Discuss

1) Read 18:1-12

A huge group of soldiers were there to arrest Jesus. If Jesus is a revolutionary, they want to be ready. Jesus wasn't afraid or caught off guard by all this. He steps forward – willingly, voluntarily. He does this with courage, boldness, love, and a willingness to submit to the Father. Here, Jesus does what neither the soldiers nor His disciples ever expect Him to do – He gives Himself over to be arrested. Jesus is in control, working out God's sovereign plan. Then Peter's reaction and subsequent action represents trying to do a good thing and serve God in one's own strength. Jesus didn't need someone to defend Him. He was in control.

How do you think you would have responded if you were with Jesus in the Garden that night? Do you recognize that God is in control of all the aspects of your life? How can we trust Jesus in the midst of chaos and suffering?

Additional Reading: *John 12:23; Daniel 7:13-14*

2) Read 18:13-27

The religious leaders wanted to do away with Jesus. Their love for the praise of man fueled their unbelief. Their honor, comfort and dignity were being threatened because Jesus turned the "lights on." Jesus is facing injustices, but He doesn't fight back.

In vs 13-27, John is highlighting the contrast between Jesus and Peter. When asked if he is Jesus' disciple, Peter denies it three times - "I am not!" When the soldiers come to arrest Jesus, He comes forward three times to say, "I AM He." Peter's guilty conscience left him fearful, but Jesus was courageous. He was bold as a lion. ([Proverbs 28:1](#)) Jesus was willing to drink the cup of God's wrath. He knew what was to come. He came forward and took our sin on the cross. Peter fled in fear and guilt, but after the resurrection, Peter would never be the same.

Being a Christian means publicly identifying yourself as a follower of Christ. It is personal not private. Are you prepared for the hostility of a world who hates God and rejects a king who turns the light on our sin and then calls us lovingly to repentance? Have you counted the cost?

When you sin, is your conscience convicted? Do you let that conviction lead you to God? How can you love people who don't love you as you hoped, let you down, or fail you? How can you obey Jesus command to love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you? With whom are you able to share your story of transformation after having experienced God's breath-taking love?

Additional Reading: 1Peter 2:21-25, Romans 2:6; 8:1, John 13:34-35, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [John 18:28-19:16](#) "Bearing Witness to the Truth"