

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to John 18

We are continuing our verse by verse study through the Gospel of John

And we are currently in the portion of the Gospel of John where Jesus has just been betrayed and arrested, falsely accused and He is in the process of being rushed through multiple religious and civil trials that ultimately lead Him being nailed to a Roman cross – paying a debt that He did not owe.

Now, one of the things that I mentioned last week in our study was that Jesus wasn't the only one that was being tried that early morning – because Peter was going through his own spiritual trial – we looked at the different characteristics of a backslider through the events that were happening in Peter's life that night that would ultimately lead him to deny Jesus – just as Jesus had said he would.

In our text this morning – we are going to meet another individual who was on trial that morning – Annas

So we have -

Jesus, Peter and Annas

Peter and Annas –, they are going to want exactly thing (self preservation)

Peter is going to want to preserve his life – that is why he is going to deny Jesus

Annas is going to want to preserve his status – he is not willing to give it up to Jesus

However, in Jesus – we will see the ultimate display of love – as He willingly submits to the Father's will.

So Jesus demonstrates that it is not about me – that it is about what the Father has for me.

Let's pray...

Read the text (19-27)

So we left off last week with Jesus being taken to Annas house.

When we look at all the gospels, we know that Jesus was taken to go see Annas first and then Caiaphas –

Caiaphas was the official high priest that was appointed by Rome –

However, Annas was the one who had the real power in Jerusalem

That is why when Jesus is arrested, He is first brought to Annas

John doesn't even mention the Caiaphas portion of the trial – we would have to go to the other three gospels to see what the interaction that took place there.

Now, first of all – Jesus' trial was not even a trial, as we will see, it was more of an interrogation than a trial.

It was a kangaroo court—in other words, these religious rulers broke every law God established for providing a fair trial to someone accused of a crime—especially if they were charged with a capital crime.

- They didn't give Jesus an opportunity to prepare a defense but rushed Him through a mock trial having already determined He was guilty thus denying Him any aspect of justice
- They were not supposed to meet at night nor during any of the Jewish feasts.
- They were not supposed to bribe witnesses to commit perjury.
- One glaring violation was that—according to Jewish law, all evidence had to be verified by at least two witnesses, who were separately examined and could not have contact with each other – they couldn't collude with each other. And when the crime was worthy of capital punishment, which is what Annas was gunning for here with Jesus, there had to be a minimum of 3 witnesses whose testimonies all agreed.
- A death verdict was not to be carried out until a night had elapsed.

- Jewish law also mandated that a person accused of a crime could not testify against himself

[Jhn 18:19-27 NKJV] 19 The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine.

Keep in mind that in a trial –

Those that are bring you to trial – they are supposed to bring the witnesses, the evidence and the charges against the one that is being tried.

Annas is asking Jesus, “Jesus, I want You to incriminate yourself by telling me something juicy and I also want You to incriminate your inner circle”

So from the first question of this interrogation – we see the illegality of the proceedings.

Annas and the religious rulers had nothing on Jesus.

20 Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. 21 "Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said."

Think about this -

If Annas was really interested in the truth – and he thinks that Jesus is bad

Why would he ask Jesus in the first place? Unless –

Annas wants Jesus to give him the nugget that he could accuse Him of.

You see, the other gospels tell us that witnesses were brought to accuse Jesus – but none of their testimonies agreed.

And in frustration – Annas demanded that Jesus answer for Himself

And Jesus response –

“Annas – the City of Jerusalem is filled with people that have heard what He had to say
- Ask them – “

And in doing so – Jesus was reminding Annas that what he was doing was violating God's law.

The problem was that there was no credible witnesses that would provide the religious rulers with the ammo they wanted to put Jesus down.

22 And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?"

When Jesus exposed the illegality of the proceedings –

Annas was left speechless

Annas knew what he was doing was wrong

And an anonymous temple officer standing next to Jesus blindsided Jesus with an open handed punch to the face

And literally what Jesus is saying in His response is,

“What have I said that isn’t true?”

“What have I said that is wrong?”

“Tell me what I have said wrong – because you are supposed to ask witnesses – not the accused”

So, Jesus here is simply speaking truth

And we see Annas and this anonymous officer rejecting truth

Now, there are two things I want you to consider in this exchange –

1. Jesus, here, in talking to Annas and talking to this officer – He is giving them an opportunity to believe the truth.

He is giving them an opportunity to do the right thing.

He is giving them an opportunity to repent.

He is giving them an opportunity to be saved – apparently, there was still hope for them.

And the reason I say this is because Jesus is going to do the same thing in His interrogation under the hands of Caiaphas (we see that in the other gospels) and Pontius Pilate (which we will see next week).

Jesus will give them the opportunity to believe the truth by speaking truth to them as well.

But when Jesus goes before Herod (Luke provides an account of that interrogation) Jesus doesn't speak a single word to Herod because Herod had already crossed the line – Herod had already made up his mind – there was no hope for Herod.

2. The second thing I want us to consider is – think about what was going through the mind of Peter as he is standing in the courtyard, warming up his hands in the fire of the enemy – and he sees Jesus get punched in the face by the temple officer.

We will see that as all this is happening, Dr. Luke tells us, as we will see, that Peter was within eyesight of Jesus – which means that Jesus was within eyesight of Peter.

Peter walked with Jesus for three years and he had been a witness to attempt after attempt of the religious rulers and the multitude of people trying to put their hands on Jesus – and even try to kill Jesus.

And every single time – Jesus was able to get away.

Never did Peter see Jesus suffer a punch like this

You see church – it is at this courtyard where Jesus' intense physical suffering began

It is right here where Peter must have realized – that this was real.

24 Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Annas had no reply to Jesus

He had no justification for what he had done

There was no justification for the punch of the officer

So what does Annas do – he sends Jesus bound to his son-in-law, Caiaphas for further interrogation

You see, church

Annas had no interest in the truth

Annas simply wanted what he wanted – self-preservation.

He wanted his will to be done

He didn't want to lose his authority among the Jews

So Annas suppressed the truth

QUOTE

An old dead dude once said, *“The more men suppress the truth of God which they know, the more futile, even senseless, they become in their thinking”*

That is what Annas was doing – and certainly that is what is happening in the world today

Because,

We live in a society today that suppresses the truth

I don't want anything to do with a God that is going to tell me anything about how am I supposed to live

And the more and more we suppress the truth – the more ridiculous things that we actually believe – just like the quote from the old dead guy

Notice -

Jesus was bound when He came from the Garden of Gethsemane and He remains bound as He goes from Annas' house to Caiaphas' house.

This is God in handcuffs

This is God submitting to it all

He didn't have to be – but He did it for our sake

So it is at this point – where we would have to go to the other three gospels to see what happens as Jesus stands before Caiaphas and then before the Sanhedrin before He is sent to Pilate.

Remember that John doesn't record all the parts because by the time he writes his gospel – everyone knows what happened at Caiaphas' house and we have to remember that John's gospel is supplemental – and so the Holy Spirit highlights the exchange that Jesus has with Pontius Pilate which we will do next week.

Now – at the same time that Annas is interrogating Jesus Peter is warming his hands in the fire.

So the scene shifts to Peter

Who you might remember from our study last week – he had already denied the Lord once – this was back in verse 17

The servant girl at the door had asked him if he was one of Jesus' disciples and he had said, "I am not"

25 Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, "You are not also [one] of His disciples, are you?" He denied [it] and said, "I am not!"

Go Peter is warming himself by the fire – out of the corner of his eye, he is seeing what is happening to Jesus, he sees the punch – he is trying to play it cool

And then he is asked again - **"You are not also [one] of His disciples, are you?"**

Now, in the Greek this question is in the negative structure – this question is more like, "No, you are not one of those are you?"

To which he responds – I am not

26 One of the servants of the high priest, a relative [of him] whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?"

This question is very different than the second question – this question is more of an attacking question or a question with an accusation attached to it.

27 Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed.

Turn to the gospel of Matthew –

Because Matthew gives us a little more insight on what is going on here

[Mat 26:69-75 NKJV] 69 Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." 70 But he denied it before [them] all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying." 71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, another [girl] saw him and said to those [who were] there, "This [fellow] also was with Jesus of Nazareth." 72 But again he denied

with an oath, “I do not know the Man!” 73 And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, “Surely you also are [one] of them, for your speech betrays you.” 74 **Then he began to curse and swear**, [saying], “I do not know the Man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. 75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” So he went out and wept bitterly.

I had you make a note that after the third time Peter was asked – he began to curse and swear.

What Peter is doing here – he is calling curses upon himself to seek his innocence.

He is saying – if I am guilty, may I die

He is saying – I do not know Jesus – I swear on my life!!!!

Jesus warned Peter that this was going to happen.

The thing that must have really humiliated and devastated Peter was that after he had assured the Lord earlier in the evening that he would die before he would ever deny Him, he not only broke his promise—but the first two times he denied the Lord was to a couple of young servant girls!

Church – do not fail to see -

Peter’s failed in the very thing he was most strong in – courage.

It was Peter who whipped out his sword and started swinging in the Garden in the face of overwhelming odds.

It was Peter who stepped out of the boat during the storm on Galilee to walk on water

It was Peter who followed Jesus to Annas' house when the rest of the disciples ran away.

It was Peter who left his hiding place & ran to the tomb on Sunday morning.

Peter was a brave guy.

He was ready when it came to the big & obvious challenges.

But it was precisely because he was brave & courageous that he failed in courtyard of the High Priest.

When a couple hundred stormed into Gethsemane, the overwhelming odds gave Peter a chance to be the hero, "I will show them – I will stick up for Jesus"

But, when it was a handful of humble servants trying to keep warm, Peter wasn't ready.

Remember what Jesus told Peter – we looked at it two weeks ago –

"Satan is asking for you Peter – Give me the fishermen – I am going to sift him like wheat – I want to shake his faith"

Satan knew what Peter's strength was and what his weakness was

And the same is true for you and me

The enemy knows our strength and weakness

The very thing you and I are strong in may be the place we fall

if our dependence is rooted in ourselves instead of the Lord.

It doesn't matter what our natural strength is – it must be made dependent on Christ or it will become the point we stumble in.

And Peter is our example

It is at this point –

Luke tells us something about that scene that no other Gospel writer records.

Luke tells us that immediately after Peter denied the Lord for the third time that from where He was standing in Caiaphas's house—Jesus turned and looked out into the courtyard directly Peter and it is then that Luke tells us that Peter remembered the word of the Lord.

What kind of a look did Jesus give Peter?

Was it a look of anger?

Was it a look of disappointment?

Was it a look of sadness?

We can only speculate because the scriptures do not tell us.

However, I'll say this to you—the look we think Jesus gave Peter in response to his failure reveals how we think Jesus looks at us when you fail as a Christian.

- I don't believe Jesus gave Peter a look of anger -

The Bible teaches that God's anger is reserved for those living in rebellion, those who refuse to repent for their sins and not for those who try to live for Him but sometimes fail.

- I don't believe that Jesus looked at Peter with a look of disappointment.

You see for God to be 'disappointed' with us it means that our actions took Him by surprise—

that we acted in a way He didn't expect—that we let Him down and didn't live up to His expectations for us.

However, that is impossible for God Who has all-knowledge and knew every sin we were going to commit before He ever made us!

Jesus told Peter in advance he was going to stumble –

I believe Jesus told Peter this in advance—not only to warn him not to put his trust in his own strength—but also to prepare him—to soften the blow of his failure by teaching Peter (and all of us) that our sins never surprise God—

Does it grieve Him yes, does it surprise Him, no.

- I don't believe that Jesus gave Peter a look of sadness.

The kind of look we might give a person who was a lost cause—a hopeless loser!

The kind of person we often feel like for blowing it as much as we do—which causes us to say, “Lord, I'm hopeless, I'll never amount to anything as a Christian—why don't You just give up on me—I've given up on myself!”

- I personally believe that Jesus gave Peter a look of compassion.

the kind of look a parent would give a child who is learning how to walk but keeps falling.

The same look He gives to you and me.

Church – we are all going to fail – we are a work in progress

I want you to write this verse down – meditate on it.

[1Jo 3:20 NKJV] 20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

Our heart may condemn us when we fail—but God is bigger than our heart and knows that deep down in our heart we love Him and want to obey Him and please Him

The difference between those God uses greatly and those He doesn't use much isn't their failures—

The difference is — that when one fails, they give up—whereas the other when they fall—get up, repent, learn from their mistakes and move forward in their walk and ministry for the Lord.

At the moment of Peter's failure, he didn't realize that his greatest days of serving Jesus were still ahead ...

Amen

Let's pray...

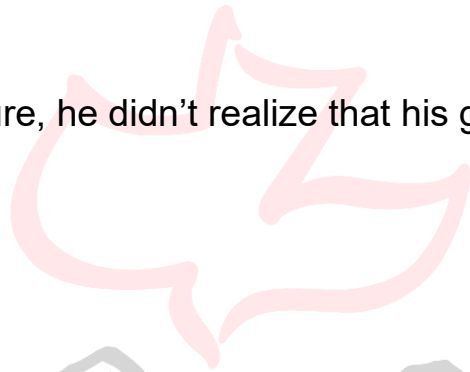
To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.



CALVARY
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Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Psa 103:8-14 NKJV] 8 The LORD [is] merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. 9 He will not always strive [with us], Nor will He keep [His anger] forever. 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, [So] great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, [So] far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father pities [his] children, [So] the LORD pities those who fear Him. 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we [are] dust.

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[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

