



Chapter 18

The Prisoner Who Is King

Introduction: *Who is Really in Control?*

- In John 18, Jesus faces betrayal, arrest, abandonment, questioning, and trial.
- Nevertheless, He is not powerless. He foresees future events, safeguards His disciples, follows the Father's plan, and testifies to His kingdom and the truth.



Arrested—but in control (18:1–9)

- If you had been one of Jesus' 11 disciples, what emotions would have gripped you when the soldiers arrived at the garden?
- Why did Jesus allow Judas and the soldiers to arrest Him? Was He unable to escape, or was He willingly accepting the Father's purpose? (vv. 1-3)
- What does the soldiers' reaction when Jesus says "I am He" suggest about the One they have come to arrest? (18:4-6)?



Peter's sword—and Jesus' cup (18:10–11)

- Does Peter's action show courage, love for Jesus, self-confidence, rashness—or perhaps a mixture of these?
- What does Jesus' response teach us about trying to accomplish God's purposes by our own strength and methods?
- If you had been in Peter's place, what reasons might you have given for denying that you were a disciple of Jesus?

Our loyalty

- When and where is it hardest for some Christians to openly identify themselves as Christians?
- How can we more clearly express our loyalty to Jesus when we are around other people?

Jesus Speaks Openly —Peter Denies Him (18:12–27)

- Jesus before Annas → Peter outside → Jesus questioned → Peter questioned again.
- Peter's failure is real—but it will not be the end of Peter's story.

The religious trial (18:19–24)

- What can we learn from Jesus about responding to unjust treatment without either retaliating or calling injustice acceptable?

The Kingdom and the Truth

- Remember John 10:18: “No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself.” How does John 18 show this happening?

Jesus before Pilate: What kind of King? (18:28–38)

- Pilate asked, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ – what was Jesus’ response and why (18:33-37)?
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- Why was it difficult for Pilate to understand the concept of God's kingdom?

What is Truth? (18:37-38)

- ‘Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.’ What is Jesus talking about?
- Pilate asks, “What is truth?” What is striking about his asking this question and then immediately going out again?

Truth Then—and Truth Now -Where do you stand?

- Jesus says, “Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” Are we willing to hear His voice even when His truth challenges us?

Jesus or Barabbas? (18:38–40)

- Pilate finds “no fault in Jesus”
- The innocent One is rejected while the guilty goes free.

Questions

- Who really seems to be in control in John 18?
- How did Jesus show he was in control of his arrest?
- What did Jesus tell Annas about his teaching? (John 18:19-24)
- Why did the religious leaders take Jesus to Pilate?