



THE INTERROGATIONS – John 18:12-27

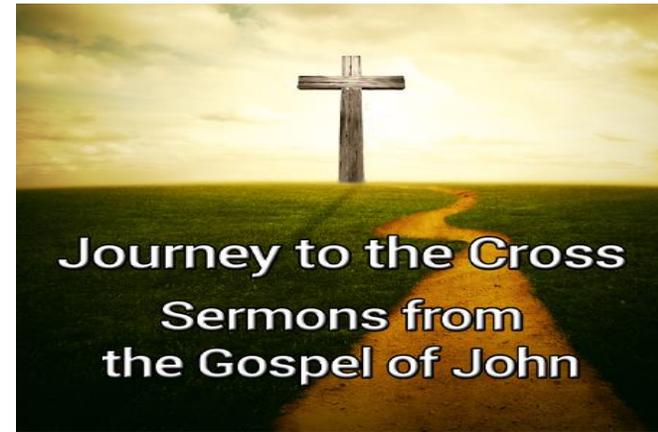
In today's passage, John gives us some very subtle nuances that the other gospels do not. During this initial interrogation of Jesus, John gives us special insight to what occurred, and he also gives us an eye witness account to another interrogation occurring, that of Peter.

John 18:12-27 (NIV) 18:12-27; *Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him 13 and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. 14 Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.*

15 Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, 16 but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in. 17 "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not." 18 It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

19 Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. 20 "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. 21 Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said." 22 When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. "Is this the way you answer the high priest?" he demanded. 23 "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" 24 Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

25 Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, "You aren't one of his disciples too, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not." 26 One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the garden?" 27 Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.



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Two mock trials – two interrogations: Jesus is being illegally tried by Annas, Peter is being rightfully tried for his denial. Jesus is being tried by the highest Jewish authority in Jerusalem. Peter is simply being tried by servants and bystanders. Jesus, tells the truth and is persecuted. Peter lies and gets away with it. Jesus says, “I am...” and Peter says, “I am not.” Jesus stands fast; Peter folds.

The whole point of John’s writing here is to show us the glory of Christ versus the sinfulness of human hearts, especially Peter’s heart.

Takeaways from today’s passage:

1) Only John records Jesus’ being bound as he was led to Annas. They “arrested Jesus... They bound him and brought him first to Annas.” To bind Jesus after His dramatic surrender shows just how spiritually blind these Jewish leaders were. Their hearts were held captive by Satan. They bound a man who had surrendered willing. Jesus was bound and led to be slaughtered.

Jesus allowed himself to be bound but you cannot bind the glory of God.

2) John gives us a first-hand account of Peter’s questioning by servants and on-lookers. “You aren’t one of this man’s disciples too, are you?” A lie completely swept Peter into the most disastrous experience of his life.

3) Jesus endures his interrogation under Annas, although it was illegal. In doing so Jesus models an earlier lesson he taught during the Sermon on the Mount, “turning the other cheek (Matthew 5:39).” Jesus taught that one should never lash back or seek to retaliate for personal insults.

4) A contrast between Jesus’ calm, faithful witness and Peter’s failed witness. Peter was asked fair and simple questions, yet he answered with lies and pretense; his heart defiled him, and he sinned. When Jesus was asked devious and illegal questions, he replied openly and honestly, only to be met by contempt and by a stinging blow to the face.

5) The fear of man was behind Peter’s denial. Peter cared more about his own safety and what others thought about him than about his relationship with Christ. It’s all about wanting the approval of others. When we worry about what others think our focus is wrong and we forget the most important thing; what does God think?

6) God is in control, just in case we ever forget ☺

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