

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (John 18:1-27)

1. As we're seeing in this passage, all of Satan's attempts to thwart God's plans are ultimately accomplishing God's purposes.
Where do we see this happening here and elsewhere in the Scriptures?
What are some biblical passages that speak to God's sovereignty, His will, and His using evil to accomplish His good will?
Have you ever experienced the Lord using the evil actions of another to do a good work in you?
What was the situation and how did the Lord work in your life through it?
Were you able to see it at the time, or did it take a while once removed from the circumstance to see how God worked?
Did this experience change your perspective in any way?
Did it change your view of God and how you understand His character, power, omniscience?
Did it change how you view your circumstances, even if you see The Enemy at work against you?

2. Take the time to read Matthew 26:36-75, Mark 14:32-72, Luke 22:39-65.

As you compare these accounts with John 18:1-27, what details are consistent across all four accounts?

How do the commonalities bolster your faith in the description provided by John?

What differs in each of these accounts?

How specifically do the details John has chosen to include or omit bring greater clarity to the point He's making?

(a main point of John's account is to reveal the supremacy & divine nature of Jesus - hence: Jesus Over All)

Why is it helpful for us to take time to consider these different accounts of what took place?

How does it paint a fuller picture of all that Jesus accomplished while on the earth?

On the other hand - do the differences in these accounts strike you as unhelpful (maybe even challenging to your faith)?

Does your confidence in God's Word falter in any way since all four accounts aren't identical with one another?

If it helps - think about people who've all experienced the same event (like a sporting event). Each person's recounting would not be identical depending upon a variety of factors: who they're sharing this with (audience/reader), their perception of what took place, the perspective from which their observations were made, their purpose in recounting these events, etc. In a case like this - even though the accounts would differ, they're all equally true.

3. Read John 18:10, 17, & 25-27.

Look at Peter's actions in in verse 10 and compare them with verses 17, 25-27.

How could he be so bold & brazen (even if his actions were wrong) in verse 10, then so timid & fearful in verses 17, 25-27?

How were the circumstances different, and could that have made the difference in his behavior?

As you look at Peter's life as Jesus' disciple, how have you seen his great faith and deep love for Jesus on display?

*Remember - It was Peter who confessed Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God & upon whom Jesus would build the Church
Matthew 16:13-20.

How about you and your life?

Have you been boldly committed to Christ in one moment, but in another instance overcome by fear & acted timidly?

**What makes the difference in your willingness to boldly proclaim Jesus and remaining quiet when you should speak?
How does the Holy Spirit (i.e. The Helper) impact our lives in this regard?**

*Recognize that Peter's story doesn't end in his denial of Christ (three times) - we will soon see Jesus lovingly and mercifully restore Peter.
Remember the grace of our Lord toward Peter when you're struggling with guilt over your past sins against Christ
The same love, mercy, & grace that Jesus gave to Peter is available to all of us who turn to Jesus in confession of our need of Him!

4. For the Benediction, I shared the following:

Luke 22:41-42

[41] And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, [42] saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."

John 18:11

[11] So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

How does Jesus demonstrate submission to the Father in all things in these passages?

How does John 18:11 correspond with Luke 22:41-42, and what does it reveal about God's answer to Jesus' prayer?

How can we learn from Jesus, both in how we ought to pray, AND how we ought to view God's answers to our prayers?

How can we follow Jesus' example here in submission to the will of the Father in all things?

What do we need in order to be able to submit like that, & has the Lord provided us with what we need to do so?

5. Below are the "So What?" statements from the end of the sermon.

Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

1. These events take place just as Jesus said they would!

Satan's evil schemes work out God's plans & purposes.

Let's pray for the Lord to bolster our faith by this!

2. Jesus' commitment to the Father's will never wavers!

Even the most trying circumstances don't deter Him.

Let's walk by the Holy Spirit to follow His example!

3. Jesus divine authority is on full display in these events!

His union with The Father is revealed time & again.

We must recognize this and worship Him accordingly!