

Arrest, Denial and Trial – John 18:12–19:16



MEMORY VERSE: “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” John 18:36

DAY 1 JOHN 18:12-18 — Arrest and Peter’s 1st Denial

1. What details stand out to you about Jesus’ arrest? vv.12-14 (and v.6)
2. Since Caiaphas was the high priest that year, what reason might the soldiers have had for taking Jesus to the previous high priest, Annas, who was also Caiaphas’ father in law?
3. The disciple “known to the high priest” was most likely John (or possibly Joseph of Arimathea or Nicodemus). Why might that disciple have been comfortable in the high priest’s courtyard while Peter clearly was not?
4. What thoughts could have led Peter to lie to the servant girl about being a disciple of Jesus?
5. We have all denied Jesus in some way- failing to speak up about our devotion to Christ, or living in a way that denies our faith in Him. What do you think is at the root of our denials?

LEARN THE TRUTH

Jesus was treated more unfairly than any human ever has been or will be in the future. He had the power to stop His arrest and the illegal trials before Him, yet He willingly surrendered to arrest, denial, false accusations, beatings hatred and mockery... in order to pay for our sins on the cross.

DAY 2 JOHN 18:19-24 — The Jewish Trial

6. Caiaphas questioned Jesus about his disciples and his Teaching. What points did Jesus make to the high priest in His answer? vv.20-21

7. What true motives of the soldiers, and of the Jews, are evident in this illegal Jewish trial? vv.19-24

Matthew 26:59-61

8. Why did their false testimony and abusive tactics fail? Mark 14:55-61
9. What “proof of blasphemy” did the Jewish council finally get from Jesus? Mark 14:61-65
10. How might the Jews have justified their abusive treatment of Jesus? Do you see this same behavior and justification today?

John 16:2-3

DAY 3 JOHN 18:25-27 — Peter’s 2nd and 3rd Denials

11. What observations or questions do you have in John’s short account of Peter’s 2nd and 3rd denials?
12. Jesus had provided an escape for His disciples when He was arrested in the garden (18:8,9) which is why they “all left Him and fled” (Mark 14:50). Look at the other gospel accounts note the progression of Simon Peter’s **physical movements** leading up to his denials of Christ.
Mark 14:54

Luke 22:54-55

13. Now note the progression of Simon Peter’s **words** in his denials of Jesus from Matthew’s account.
Matthew 26:69-75

14. How do you see God's individual plan for Peter unfolding in the midst of His greater plan to bring salvation to the world? Luke 22:60-62
15. What insight does this give you about how to apply Gods promises, prophecies and admonitions to your own life, especially if you recognize that you have denied Him in some way?

Psalm 145:8-9

Proverbs 13:20

Isaiah 55:8-11

Philippians 1:6

DAY 4 JOHN 18:28-38 — Jesus Before Pilate

16. Who are "they" who led Jesus from the Jewish trial before Caiaphas to the Roman trial before Pilate, and why would "they" not enter the governor's headquarters? John 18:12 and 28-29
17. Can you think of any examples of similar religious hypocrisy today?
18. Why did the Jewish leaders need Pilate to deal with this situation with Jesus? vv.29-31
19. In contrast to death by stoning in the Jewish culture, how did the Jewish and Roman trials fulfill the prophesy about the kind of death Jesus would face? vv.31-32

John 12:32-34

20. What hope, or possibility, do you see in the exchange between Pilate and Jesus? vv.18:33-38

DAY 5 JOHN 18:38-19:16 – Jesus Delivered to Be Crucified

21. Why did Pilate not want to put Jesus to death? What alternative did he offer? vv.18:38-19:8

Matthew 27:15-23

Luke 23:21-22

22. Pilate again tried to reason with Jesus. What was wrong with Pilate's reasoning? vv.19:9-11

23. During the Roman trial, Jesus also went before Herod. How did these events with Jesus affect the relationship between Herod and Pilate? Luke 23:12-16

24. To what extreme lengths did the Jews go in their hatred of Jesus? vv.18:39-40; 19:12-16

Matthew 27:24-25

Luke 23:23-25

25. What truths or principles do you hope to apply to your life from the trials and denials of Jesus?

LOVE THE TRUTH

It's hard to imagine why anyone would reject the love, protection, sacrifice and security Jesus offers through His death and resurrection. Think about how you can more deeply appreciate and follow Jesus Christ, the only Door to salvation and the Good Shepherd who gives abundant life.

John 18:12–19:16

Arrest, Denial and Trial

The High Priest in the Old Testament was appointed by God to be the intermediary between God and the people. He offered gifts and sacrifices for sin to God on behalf of the people, handled finances, administration, collected taxes and was the political leader of nation. The High Priest was intended to hold his position for life, and the role was passed from father to son in line of Levi. Aaron was the first high priest mentioned in the Bible. Over time the system became corrupt. There were self appointed priests, bad shepherds. "The Shepherds are stupid and do not inquire of the Lord, therefore they have not prospered, and their flock has scattered." (Jeremiah 10:21) Ezekiel 34 describes their greed and carelessness. They fed themselves rather than their sheep, led harshly and injured rather than helped the sheep. They failed to protect them so the sheep became prey. It then goes on to present a picture of the Messiah, the Good Shepherd and High Priest for all time, who seeks out His sheep, rescues them, feeds them in good pasture. He seeks the lost, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak, and feeds them justice. Years later, Annas was the High Priest but had been deposed by the Romans. He still held some power over his son in law, Caiaphas. Jesus said, "this is your hour, and the power of darkness." (Luke 22:53) Because of His astounding love, Christ surrendered temporarily to the evil powers of the various crooked authorities.

We know that Peter truly loved God, but he tripped all over himself goofing things up and then he denied Jesus. Yet, when Jesus had previously asked, "Who do you say that I am," Peter had replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on

earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matt. 16:15-19) Yet Peter had to be broken in order to grow, as do we all. We might deny Christ in some way on one day, but when we run to Him in our sorrow, He is ready to forgive and empower us to be what He has always intended for us to be— a witness for Him. Jesus was in the middle of unjust trials and false accusations, and yet He looked at Peter in love, after having warned him that he was about to deny Him 3 times. May we each feel such compassion and forgiveness from God when we fail, and may we go on to witness for Him to this needy world.

WALK IN TRUTH



Beware of the mob mentality. It is easy to get caught up in the foolishness and emotion of a crowd. A speech, powerful song, video or even people can have a strong impact on unsuspecting observers. Any of us can behave in a way we never thought possible and commit sins we hate just by getting caught up in a moment. It often begins by thinking too highly of our own strength, being in a place we shouldn't, with people we would be better off without. Instead, we must be convinced of truth and listen to His leading. We must think like the Bereans, who "were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." (Acts 17:11) We are all in process as God works on our individual hearts and minds, even as He works out His plans in the bigger picture of salvation in the world. If you have denied Him, repent. If you are weak, ask for His Spirit to empower and guide you. He is our strength and power. In our weakness, He is strong.

Notes