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**JOHN 18 – What Is Truth?**

**Last week;**

*Jesus’ prayer to the Father.*

Jesus prays for *US*! (Yes, He prays for those of us who someday “will believe”),

**20**“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who *will believe* in me through their message, **21**that *all of them may be one*, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22**I have given them the glory that you gave me, that *they may be one as we are one*— **23**I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete *unity*.

Three times, Jesus prays for our Unity.

He realizes how important it is for us to “be one”, even as He and the Father are one.

JOHN 18

Jesus final minutes of freedom before he is bound, taken, beaten, scoured, and crucified.

### Jesus Arrested

**John 18 1**When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.

**2**Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.

Jesus and the eleven crossed the Kidron Valley, likely through the Eastern Gate, that was open at the time. They went to the Garden of Gethsemane which is on the Mount of Olives. In fact Gethsemane means “olive press”. Luke tells us that is here where he was in such deep anguish that he sweat droplets of blood from the pressure of the agony of His soul. Much like an olive being pressed in under an olive press stone, that produces the finest olive oil.

**Luke 22:41**He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, **42**“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” **43**An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. **44**And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground

Then Judas arrived after receiving thirty pieces of silver to betray Jesus to the Chief Priests who wanted to find Him, and out Him to death.

**3**So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

**4**Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”

**5**“Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

“I am he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)

In the gospel of John, there are seven highlighted passages when Jesus said, “I Am”, he Holy name of God that the Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sainai.

1. “I am the bread of life”
2. “I am the light of the world”
3. “I am the door”
4. “I am the good shepherd”
5. “I am the resurrection and the life”
6. “I am the way and the truth and the life”
7. “I am the true vine”

In John 18:5 we read that He responded to them with “I am he”, but in the original Greek manuscripts, It simply says “I Am” (*not He*). The very name of God given on Mount Sinai*. “I am the I am”*

**Ex. 3:13-14**Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

When He said, “I Am”, something very powerful happened…

**6**When Jesus said, “I am [he],” they *drew back and fell to the ground.*

**7**Again he asked them, “Who is it you want?”

“Jesus of Nazareth,” they said.

**8**Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.” **9**This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.”

This is the moment that Jesus gave Himself up. It was here that He allowed Himself to be taken into custody, that would end in death. He did it out of obedience to the Father, even after He said in His prayer that He had be granted “authority over all people”. He had the power to stop it if he chose but He willingly gave Himself up for us.

**10**Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.)

Peter acted impulsively but courageously; remember the officials from the Temple had a detachment of Roman soldiers with them. (It’s possible that Peter was trying to cut off the guy’s head but missed.) This was not what Jesus wanted him to do however..

**11**Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”

Jesus is referring to the “cup of suffering” (the torture, the cross, death), that He spoke about in Luke 22:42 *“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”*

**12**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.

The High Priest family was rich and powerful. Annas had served for years, so had his sons, now Caiaphas was in charge. He had already stated that he would gladly put a person to death. They bound Jesus, and brought him to the house of the High Priest for the night.

### Peter’s Denials

**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.

### The High Priest Questions Jesus

**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.

### Peter’s Second and Third Denials

**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.

### Peter had gone from *Courageous, to Cowardly* within minutes.

### He went from promising that he would be never deny Jesus, be willing to die for Him, to denying that He knew Him, Just as Jesus prophesied that he would.

### Luke 22:61-62“61The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” 62And he went outside and wept bitterly.”

### Peter goes away feeling shamed and defeated, but he is restored beautifully by Jesus in the last chapter.

### Up until this point, Jesus has been in Jewish custody; but they are about to turn Him over to Pontius Pilate was the Procurator of Judea. He was the representative of Rome who oversaw Herod who governed over the Jews in this region. Pontius Pilate sent Jesus to Herod who was in Jerusalem, but Herod sent Him back to face charges under the Roman jurisdiction.

### Jesus Before Pilate

**28**Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover.

If Jews entered the home of a Gentile ,they were considered unclean. They would have had to go through a purification period to regain their cleanliness, which means that they would have missed Passover which was upon them. It is ironic that they wanted to honor God in keeping the law, while sinning greatly against Him by bringing about His Son’s crucifixion.

**29**So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

**30**“If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.”

**31**Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

“But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. **32**This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

Much of what Jesus did and what happened to Him in His life were fulfilments of many prophesies that were written about him hundreds of years prior.

**33**Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

**34**“Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

**35**“Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

**36**Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

**37**“You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, *“You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”*

*Truth was on trial!*

He said, “*I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth.”*

Remember, the Devil is called the “Great Deceiver”, and the “Father of Lies”. Deception and Lies are the opposite of Truth. Jesus is the way, the TRUTH, and the life and came to testify to the Truth. He told His disciples that when the Holy Spirit comes, He will lead you into all TRUTH. It was here that Pilate asked his famous question;

**38**“*What is truth*?” retorted Pilate.

With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. **39**But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?”

**40**They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

We will read next week, that Jesus went on to die upon the cross, and that through His death, mankind is now able to be released from the bondage of lies and be set free by the truth of God’s love though His son.

Let’s go back to the question;

WHAT IS TRUTH?

#### **Absolute Truth vs. Relative Truth**

Truth that is defined as being absolute, possesses the following qualities.

**Absolute Truth**

* Truth is discovered not invented
* Truth is unchanging: it can be conveyed across time and culture.
* Truth is unaffected by the attitude of the one professing it
* All Truths are absolute
* Truth is knowable

#### **Relative Truth**

The popular view on truth in our culture today is that objective, universal and absolute truth is implausible. They believe:

* Truth is created not discovered. Truth is a matter of perspective and each culture or individual defines for themselves what is truth.

This confusion of truth is why the world is in the dysfunctional state that it’s in.

Never more exposed than the recent *“What is a woman?”* phenomenon. Where that simple question could not be answered with clarity by popular entertainers, social activists, political leaders and everyday people.

The Dictionary defines truth as: “the true or actual state of a matter; conformity with fact or reality; a verified or indisputable fact.

Truth is factual and indisputable. The reason this is so important is because truth remains true regardless of outside influences. It is not dependent on what you think or feel about it.

*“Truth is defined as that which corresponds to reality as perceived by God.” (RC Sproul)*

In other words, truth is reality as God sees it. As much as we perceive reality in the way God sees it, then we perceive reality correctly. That is truth.

In 2006 Focus on the Family released a Video series called the Truth Project.

They named the course “a study of “Veritology” [made up word], meaning a study of that which is “veritable” (true).

It was propagated by Pilate’s question “What is Truth”, and attempt to answer that question by looking at many areas of study including; science, history, biology, entertainment, and philosophy.

I offered it in a midweek Bible study that normally had 30-40 people in attendance. When I presented the Truth Project we had 130 people come out for it.

Why?

**Because we are all made in God’s image, and when we are resonating with our creator, we are resonating with God’s truth. We are designed by our creator to have a hunger for truth. We crave it. We can only find it however, through Him. *His word is truth.***

The Devil works overtime trying to keep people from truth, and in many ways has been successful.

**The truth about Jesus is this that He is the Son of God, the creator of the universe. He is the Messiah and the Savior. He came to earth to sacrifice himself for us on the cross, so that by believing on Him, we can become sons and daughters of God, and live forever in eternity with Him beyond the grave.**

*This is the most important truth in the world* and the deceiver knows it. That’s why he does so much to try to stop people from hearing and receiving it.

Our job is to be truth-tellers. To preach, make disciples and be His witnesses, so that those who are imprisoned by the *lies* of the enemy, *will know the truth and the truth will set them free. (John 8:32)*

Pray for *all people* who don’t know the truth of God and are overcome with darkness and lies. The best thing that can happen to the world is they would be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth.

**1st Tim 2:1-4** I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— **2**for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. **3**This is good, and pleases God our Savior, **4**who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

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