

“HE DWELT AMONG US”

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN LESSON 19 Chapter 18

“Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?” John 18:11b

As we begin our lesson this week, let us realize the intensity and holiness of our Savior as He willingly moves forward to the cross. We are in a sense entering “*Holy Ground.*”

In this final section, we will see the worst in man. In contrast, we will also see the best, absolute commitment of love in Jesus. He allowed nothing to deter His obedience to His Father’s will. The price for the redemption of sinful mankind had to be paid. Jesus was the sinless Passover lamb.

Take a moment before you begin this lesson to pray and ask the Lord to help you understand His Word with your heart, soul and mind. And may this understanding draw you ever closer to Him and His great love.

DAY #1

Read **John 18:1-27**. Read through again, looking for and recording the important facts. Who, what, when, where, and how are always the important factors to determine. Then, in seven words or less, state the main theme and give a short title to this section.

Theme:

Title:

DAY #2 **Read John 18:1-11** *Pray before you start your lesson each day.*

The Garden of Gethsemane

Jesus went with His disciples to a garden just east of Jerusalem called Gethsemane. They had often gone there together, no doubt to rest, meditate and pray. Jerusalem was filled with Jewish pilgrims who had come from all over Israel to celebrate the Passover. It seems appropriate that He would want to leave the crowded, noisy city for time in prayer to the Father.

Helpful Hint There will be frequent references to **Matthew, chapters 26 and 27** in this lesson. It might be helpful to place a bookmark in that section for quick reference.

- 1) The Gospel of John does not give us information about the time of prayer traditionally called “agony in the garden.” After reading the accounts recorded in **Matthew 26:36-44** and **Luke 22:40-46**, share the insights and the possible lessons you see regarding the following:
 - A. Jesus’ emotional struggle of will

 - B. The sleeping disciples

 - C. The comfort of the angel

- 2) Judas led the way to the garden. It was probably quite dark. **Read Matthew 26:47** and **John 18:3**, which describe the group coming up the hill to arrest Jesus. The detachment of troops sent to arrest Jesus was also known as a cohort in the Roman army. A cohort consisted of up to 600 men. Picture the torches and weapons. Picture the faces of the Chief Priests and Pharisees.
 - A. Why do you think they felt it necessary to be so heavily armed to arrest Jesus? Notice in **verse 12** that they bound Him.

 - B. Why do you think they fell back when Jesus said “*I am He*”?

 - C. Read **Matthew 26:52-54**. (A legion numbered approximately 6,000.) Share the insights you gain as you ponder who was really out numbered.

3) Read **John 18:10** with **Luke 22:50-51**.

A. Explain why you think Peter reacted as he did?

B. Why do you think Jesus took the time to heal the servant's ear at a time when His life was being threatened? What insights do you gain from this that minister to you?

DAY #3

The events which unfold in **verses 12** through **27** are like a drama played out on two stages. The action shifts back and forth between the preliminary investigation of Jesus before the religious leaders and Peter's denial.

1) Peter was a classic example of Jesus' statement "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (**Matthew 26:41b**) The Bible often allows us to see the imperfections of God's people so we can learn from their mistakes. It also reveals that, even though we do make mistakes, God is patient with us. Trace Peter's ups and downs in the following verses. Then comment on what you learn.

A. **Matthew 16:15-17**

B. **Matthew 16:21-23**

C. **Matthew 26:33-35**

D. **Matthew 26:58**

E. **Matthew 26:75**

*There are none so good that they can save themselves-
and none so bad that God cannot save them.*

The Unjust Trials of The Just Son of God

Jesus was interrogated six times. The first three occurred during the night. By the time He was taken to the Roman authorities, it was the morning of the following day. Not all of the trials are covered in the Gospel of John. The chart below gives you the verses to read later to trace the entire grueling ordeal.

The Six Trials of Jesus

Religious Trials

Before Annas	John 18:12-14
Before Caiaphas	Matthew 26:57-68
Before the Sanhedrin	Matthew 27:1-2

Civil Trials

Before Pilate	John 18:28-38
Before Herod	Luke 23:6-12
Before Pilate again	John 18:39-19:6

The first interrogation after Jesus' arrest was before Annas, who was the father-in-law of the high priest Caiaphas. Annas had previously been high priest. But even after his removal, it appears he still retained great influence as the senior ex-high priest. It is most likely that his family ran the commercial businesses of selling sacrifice animals within the temple courts.

Afterward, He was sent before Caiaphas, and then before the Jewish governing body, the Sanhedrin.

- 2) After reading **John 18:19** and **Matthew 26:59, 60** summarize the true intent of the hearings.

- 3) Jesus was totally silent as the unjust proceedings continued. Finally, Caiaphas asked the one crucial question, "are You the Christ, the Son of God?" Explain what followed. Add any insights you gain.
 - A. Jesus' answer (**Matthew 26:64**)

 - B. The response to the truth (**Matthew 26:65-68**)

***"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed." John 3:19, 20***

DAY #4

Read **John 18:28-40**. Read through again and record the important facts. Then give a short title to this section.

Title:

DAY #5

- 1) Peter denied the Lord in a time of weakness. Judas betrayed the Lord. There is a very big difference. To betray is to “deliver over treacherously.” Share what you learn about Judas in the following verses:
 - A. His character: (**John 12:4-6**)
 - B. The plot: (**Matthew 26:14-16**)
 - C. The betrayal: (**Matthew 26:48-50**)
 - D. His remorse: (**Matthew 27:3-8**)
 - E. Summary: Using what you learn in **II Corinthians 7:9, 10**, explain the difference between Peter’s response and that of Judas.

2) Pilate was a man caught in a very challenging situation. As the governor appointed by Rome, it was his job to keep political harmony within the nation. And yet it appears he realized that Jesus was no ordinary man. Share what impressed Pilate as he observed Jesus in **Matthew 27:11-14**.

3) Explain what Jesus says to Pilate in **John 18:36**.

A. Explain in your own words what He meant and how this affects us as Christians?

DAY #6

In the **18th chapter** of the Gospel of John, we see many people under pressure. Peter drew a sword and then later denied the Lord. The disciples fled. Judas betrayed Him with a kiss. The Jewish leaders press for the death sentence. Pilate struggles between his conscience and being politically correct. And then there was our Lord Jesus!

“He was oppressed and He was afflicted and yet He opened not His mouth; He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, as a sheep before her shearers...” **Isaiah 53:7**

1) Jesus experienced great agony in the garden. He endured false accusations in unfair hearings and even physical abuse. However, in **Hebrews 12:2**, we are encouraged to *“look unto Jesus....who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross.”*

A. Can you explain how He could experience both agony and joy?

B. How can you apply His example to your own life?

2) It is important that we don't move on from this chapter without allowing the Lord to use it to change our lives. Prayerfully ponder and list three lessons, exhortations, or encouragement you feel that the Lord would have you to apply to your life.

Jesus prayed, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. John 17:16