



Who is Jesus? The Gospel of John – Week 45

Preacher – Sandy Mason | Text – John 18:12-27

Summary:

After Jesus is arrested, what follows is a series of show trials – first before the Jewish religious authorities and then before the Roman civil authorities. In our passage for today, we will see Jesus unapologetically respond to questions about his ministry and message, and we'll also see Peter wrestling with his inner conflict – loyalty to his Lord vs. his fear of man. It's an interesting contrast and sets the stage for Peter's continued growth in Christlikeness, beginning with his failures on that fateful night.

Discussion:

1. What was the most important take-away for you from this week's message?
2. Why do you think the soldiers and officers of the Jews (v. 12) "bound" Jesus? Did they have any reason to think that he was violent or would resist? What was going through their minds?
3. Why was the first stop at the home of Annas? What's significant about Annas' relationship to Caiaphas? Look back at the end of chapter 11. How is God's will being done even through the evil being perpetrated in this week's passage?
4. Look at the different actions of Peter and the "other disciple" (probably John himself). Notice as well that Peter's first denial (vv.15-17) was to a servant girl – i.e., someone with no authority and no real threat to Peter. What do you think led Peter to deny his connection to Jesus while it's

clear that this “other disciple” was a known Christ-follower and didn’t disavow his allegiance to Christ?

5. **Application:** What circumstances in your life tempt you to downplay or elide your relationship with Jesus? Do you identify with Peter in any way in this situation? How?

6. Why does Jesus respond the way he does to questions about his disciples and his teaching (vv. 19-21)? In other words, notice that Jesus refuses to get bogged down in a back and forth about his message – rather, he reminds his opponents that his entire ministry has been public and that they could find out what they supposedly want to know from many sources. Why do you think he responds this way? What’s he exposing about his interrogators?

7. Jesus reveals the anger behind the way he is treated by the Jewish authorities (vv. 22-23). They were not seeking the truth; rather they were seeking to destroy an enemy. **Application:** What might Jesus’ treatment at the hands of the high priest’s officers have to say about how we treat those opposed to us?

8. Why do you think Jesus was shuffled around from Annas to Caiaphas and then to Pilate? How does this tie in to the lack of proper procedure and rules of evidence that should have been in place for a proceeding like this?

9. Now (vv. 25-27) Peter’s connection to Jesus continues to be questioned, in ways that could be more threatening (first by a group of people, then by a man with a connection to one hurt by Peter). **Application:** Do you think it became easier or harder for Peter to deny Jesus as the stakes got higher? What might this say to us as we prepare for opposition/persecution as Christ-followers?

10. How would you ‘title’ this section? In other words, how would you restate the main purpose John had (as the author) in writing this passage?