

John 18 Meditation Questions

John 18:1-14

"I am He!"

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples over the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, into which he and his disciples entered. **2** Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. **3** Judas then, having taken a detachment of soldiers and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

4 Jesus therefore, knowing all the things that were happening to him, went out, and said to them, "Who are you looking for?" **5** They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, **"I am he."** Judas also, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

Meditation Question: What was Jesus' mindset when they came to arrest Him?

6 When therefore he said to them, **"I am he," they went backward, and fell to the ground.**

7 Again therefore he asked them, "Who are you looking for?" They said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If therefore you seek me, let these go their way," **9** that the word might be fulfilled which he spoke, "Of those whom you have given me, I have lost none"

Meditation Question: When Jesus said, "I am he," why do you think they went backward and fell to the ground?

10 Simon Peter therefore, having a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. **11** Jesus therefore said to Peter, "Put the sword into its sheath. **The cup which the Father has given me, shall I not surely drink it?"**

Meditation Question: What was "the cup" the Father gave Jesus? Why was Jesus willing to drink it?

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12 So the detachment, the commanding officer, and the officers of the Jews seized Jesus and bound him, **13** and led him to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. **14** Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should perish for the people.

Meditation Question: Who were Annas and Caiaphas?

John 18:15-27

High Priests and Weak Men

15 Simon Peter followed Jesus, as did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered in with Jesus into the court of the high priest; **16** but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought in Peter. **17** Then the maid who kept the door said to Peter, "Are you also one of this man's disciples?" He said, "I am not." **18** Now the servants and the officers were standing there, having made a fire of coals, for it was cold. They were warming themselves. Peter was with them, standing and warming himself.

Meditation Question: Why do you think Peter was afraid to tell a servant girl that he knew Jesus? What was going on in Peter's heart?

19 The high priest therefore asked Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. **20** Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues, and in the temple, where the Jews always meet. I said nothing in secret. **21** Why do you ask me? **Ask those who have heard me** what I said to them. Behold, they know the things which I said."

22 When he had said this, one of the officers standing by slapped Jesus with his hand, saying, "Do you answer the high priest like that?" **23** Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, testify of the evil; but if well, why do you beat me?" **24** Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas, the high priest.

Meditation Question: Why do you think Annas did not question people who had heard Jesus speak and teach? How did Jesus' questions reveal Annas' hard heart?

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25 Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said therefore to him, "You aren't also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." **26** One of the servants of the high priest, being a relative of him whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?" **27** Peter therefore denied it again, and immediately the rooster crowed.

Meditation Question: Why do you think Peter was brave enough to cut off someone's ear with his sword, but later he was afraid and denied that he knew Jesus three times?

John 18:28-32

The Passover Lamb

28 They led Jesus therefore from Caiaphas into the Praetorium. It was early, and they themselves didn't enter into the Praetorium, that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. **29 Pilate therefore went out to them**, and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" **30** They answered him, "If this man weren't an evildoer, we wouldn't have delivered him up to you."

Meditation Question: The Jewish leaders were trying to kill Jesus during the Passover festival. However, they did not realize that Jesus was the Passover Lamb of God. Why do you think they did not understand?

31 Pilate therefore said to them, "Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law." Therefore, the Jews said to him, "It is illegal for us to put anyone to death," **32** that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spoke, signifying by what kind of death he should die.

Meditation Question: Where in the Gospel of John did Jesus predict that He would be crucified (lifted up from the earth)? Jesus knew that His death on the cross was the Father's plan. Explain this plan in a few sentences.

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John 18:33-40

Pilate

33 Pilate therefore entered again into the Praetorium, called Jesus, and said to him, **"Are you the King of the Jews?"** **34** Jesus answered him, "Do you say this by yourself, or did others tell you about me?" **35** Pilate answered, "I'm not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered you to me. What have you done?"

36 Jesus answered, **"My Kingdom is not of this world. If my Kingdom were of this world, then my servants would fight,** that I wouldn't be delivered to the Jews. But now my Kingdom is not from here."

Meditation Question: What did Jesus mean when He said, "My Kingdom is not of this world." What did this communicate to Pilate? What Kingdom was Jesus talking about?

37 Pilate therefore said to him, **"Are you a king then?"** Jesus answered, **"You say that I am a king. For this reason I have been born, and for this reason I have come into the world, that I should testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."**

Meditation Question: Jesus said, "Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." Why was this statement challenging to Pilate and to people today?

38 Pilate said to him, **"What is truth?"** When he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no basis for a charge against him. **39** But you have a custom, that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Therefore, do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" **40** Then they all shouted again, saying, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

Meditation Question: What did Pilate mean when he said, "What is truth?" How did Pilate's actions deny the truth?