John Chapter 18: Jesus is Arrested (John 18:1-11)

18 When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples.² Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. ³ Judas then, having received the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, *came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and *said to them, "Whom do you seek?" ⁵ They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He *said to them, "I am He." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. ⁶ So when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Therefore He again asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He; so if you seek Me, let these go their way,"⁹ to fulfill the word which He spoke, "Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one."¹⁰ Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?" John 18:1-11 NASB

- Jesus takes His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane...Gethsemane means 'oil press' in Hebrew...He was significantly feeling the 'squeeze' of the situation.
 - He is going to this place to:
 - prepare Himself spiritually.
 - 'set the scene' for God's will to be done.
 - do the will of God.
- Judas shows up with hundreds of soldiers and officers (police) from the chief priests and pharisees.
 - They came with lanterns, torches, and weapons...
- Jesus asks them, "Whom do you seek?"
 - They tell Him, "Jesus the Nazarene".

- Jesus says, "I AM He" ...and they fell backwards...lurched back and fell to the ground.
- Jesus was not hiding; neither was His Authority or Power!
- He pleads for the disciples to be set free.
- Peter's response...he takes his sword and cuts off the high priest's servant's ear.
 - His name was Malchus... (this created a new 'medical' condition...MTS – Malchus Trauma Syndrome.
 - 'MTS' is the result of high ranking 'religious' officials taking out their anger, fear, or cruelty on someone else...this makes it very difficult to 'hear' what a leader has to say...
- Jesus tells Peter that His 'weapon' is the 'cup' and that it is greater than the sword.

¹² So the Roman cohort and the ^[1] commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, ¹³ and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. ¹⁴ Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people.¹⁵ Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered 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 the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ Then the slave-girl who kept the door *said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He *said, "I am not." ¹⁸ Now the slaves and the officers were standing there, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter was also with them, standing and warming himself.¹⁹ The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said."²² When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, "Is that the way You answer the high

priest?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?" ²⁴ So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. ²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it, and said, "I am not." John 18:12-25 NASB

- The temple police (Levites) were part of the arresting troops. (see Acts 5:26-27)
 - Annas is the former high priest.
 - Caiaphas is Annas' son in law, and he had already spoken about Jesus' death.

⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, ⁵⁰ nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish." ⁵¹ Now he did not say this on his own initiative, but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation. John 11:49-51 NASB

- Annas, who technically does not have authority (but he has significant influence).
- Jesus' words about Peter denying Him all come to pass. (v17, 25, 27)

²⁸ Then they *led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. ²⁹ Therefore Pilate went out to them and *said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" ³⁰ They answered and said to him, "If this Man were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him to you." ³¹ So Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law." The Jews said to him, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death," ³² to fulfill the word of Jesus which He spoke, signifying by what kind of death He was about to die. ³³ Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "I am 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 be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." ³⁷ Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." ³⁸ Pilate *said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and *said to them, "I find no guilt in Him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover; do you wish then that I release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ So they cried out again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas." Now Barabbas was a robber. John 18:28-40 NASB

- They take Jesus to Pilate, the procurator of Judea. He was directly responsible to the emperor for the management of the country.
 - Pilate was despised by the Jews and He hated them, especially their religious practices.
 - Pilate ordered a new water supply to be built and he took the money out of the temple treasury to help pay for it.
 - They go to Pilate to the Praetorium (the home headquarters of the Roman official), the Jews don't enter the Praetorium because they didn't want to enter a Gentile residence...
 - They wouldn't violate their religious practice, but they were all okay to plot to kill Jesus!
 - Pilate tells the Jews to trust Jesus according to their own law.
 - The Jews told him that wouldn't work because they couldn't kill Him.
 - Jesus is 'interviewed' by Pilate.
 - Pilate asks Him if He is 'King of the Jews'.
 - Jesus wants to know if Pilate was calling Him the King or did the Jews tell him that.
 - Pilate says, "So, are You a King?"
 - Jesus tells him that His Kingdom is not of this realm...but He certainly is a King.
 - Jesus tells him, "Everyone who is of the Truth hears My voice."

- Pilate says, "What is Truth?"
- Pilate goes back out to the Jews and tells them, "'NOT guilty'...I find no guilt in Him."
- Then Pilate refers to a 'Passover' practice of setting a prisoner free.
- Pilate says, "Do you want me to release the King of the Jews"?
 - They answered, "NO! Release Barabbas" ...Barabbas was a robber, a thief...he released the thief.