

"My Kingdom is Not of This World"

JOHN 18 · LESSON 21

Is Jesus a King? He most certainly is (John 1:49; 12:13-15). Does he have a kingdom? Absolutely (3:3-5). But in John 18, he will clearly teach us a fundamental lesson about the nature of his kingdom: "My kingdom is _____ this world" (18:36). What did he mean by that? Why does it matter?

In John 18:1, Jesus came to a garden where he often met with his disciples. "Now _____, who betrayed him, also knew the place" (18:2) and he led a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, armed with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Then Jesus, _____ all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." This was to _____ the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its _____; shall I not drink the _____ that the Father has given me?" (18:4-11)

As Jesus is arrested and led to stand before the high priest, Simon Peter makes his way into the courtyard where a servant girl at the door said to him, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am _____" (18:15-18). As Jesus continues to be questioned and Peter warms himself by a charcoal fire, some of the servants and officers ask him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?"



He _____ it and said, "I am not." One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Peter again denied it, and at once a _____ crowd. (18:25-27; 13:36-38)

Jesus is eventually led to the headquarters of the Roman governor Pilate where he is asked if he is the King of the Jews. This is where and when Jesus gives us our key statement for today's study:

"_____ kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not _____ the world." Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this _____ I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the _____. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." (18:36-37)

The Jewish authorities are so determined to silence the voice of Jesus that they request a robber named Barabbas to be released instead of Jesus. What a sad display of hard-heartedness. Let's talk about it...

For Class & Family Discussion:

- John has told us repeatedly and tells us again in **18:4**, “Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward...” What difference does that make in our understanding of what was happening that night? Why does John want to make sure we appreciate, Jesus knew?
- In what way is **18:10-11** another sign that Jesus’ kingdom is “not of this world”?
- This same night, in **13:36-38**, Peter had said to Jesus, “I will lay down my life for you.” How did things spin out of control so quickly for him in **18:15-18** and **18:25-27**? What should we learn from his example?
- What do you make of the way Jesus responded to the questioning of the high priest in **18:19-23**? Why do you think he replied in the ways that he did?
- Do you find anything ironic in what John tells us about the mindset of the Jewish leaders in **18:28**?
- John wants to make sure we see and appreciate in **John 18**, not only did Jesus know all that would happen to him, but the way he conducted himself “was to fulfill” various things. Take a look at **18:29-32**. How did this “fulfill” what Jesus had said back in **12:27-33**?
- As you focus in on Jesus’ interaction with Pilate in **18:33-38**, what stands out to you? What can we learn? What do we need to make sure we understand?
- What does it say about the heart of the Jewish authorities that they would insist on the release of Barabbas rather than Jesus?