

All Will Kneel Before Him

John 18 / Phil 2:5-11

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG:

- What a Beautiful Name
- Break Every Chain
- All Hail King Jesus

PUBLIC READING OF SCRIPTURE: John 18

[1] When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, 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] So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. [4] Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" [5] They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. [6] When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. [7] So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." [8] Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." [9] This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." [10] 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.) [11] So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

[12] So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. [13] First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. [14] It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

[15] Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, [16] but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. [17] The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." [18] Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

[19] The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. [20] Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in

the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. [21] Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.” [22] When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” [23] Jesus answered him, “If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?” [24] Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

[25] Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You also are not one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” [26] 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?” [27] Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

[28] Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. [29] So Pilate went outside to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” [30] They answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.” [31] Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” The Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.” [32] This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

[33] So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” [34] Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” [35] Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” [36] Jesus answered, “My 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 from the world.” [37] Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” [38] Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. [39] But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” [40] They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION:

- Who is Jesus, as revealed in this passage?
- How should we respond to Jesus, as revealed in this passage?
- How do people actually respond to Jesus, as revealed in this passage?
- Respond to Jesus appropriately!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD:

As we revisit these verses, we want to spend extra care to make a note of: (1) Who is Jesus? (2) How should we respond to Jesus? (3) How do people actually respond to him?

*[1] When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, 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] So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. [4] Then Jesus, **knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?"***

- Judas, from a place of deep familiarity, knows where to find Jesus → makes his treachery all the more profound
 - Underscores the treachery not just of Judas, but of us all
 - We are made in the image, likeness, reflection of God, yet in the greatest blasphemy of the universe, we have betrayed him by nature and by choice
- But what is Jesus' response to betrayal? Volunteering to rectify it head on.
 - Knowing all that would happen...
 - He came forward...
- This is completely in line w/ what we know of God.
 - Betrayed by Adam... God volunteers to rectify the situation
 - Here, we see the culmination of that plan, once again, in a Garden.
- Who is Jesus? The one who volunteers to fix the broken world even though he knows full well what it will cost!

[5] They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. [6] When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. [7] So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." [8] Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he.

- Who is Jesus? I AM. This is a reference to the divine name of God as revealed in the book of Exodus, but even if you didn't know that, you still see the power
- Who is Jesus? He is the one whose very name causes people to draw back and fall to the ground
 - They draw back knowing they are sinful men
 - They draw back knowing they are not like Jesus, cut from a different cloth
 - They draw back being completely unable (in this moment) to NOT bend the knee
- Who is Jesus? The one to whom every knee will bow!

So, if you seek me, let these men go." [9] This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." [10] 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.) [11] So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the

Father has given me?" [12] So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. [13] First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. [14] It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

- Defending his king, Peter draws his sword to wage war, but Jesus stills his hand. This is a battle he must fight, a cup of wrath he must, obediently, drink.
- Who is Jesus? The great I AM - the one to whom every knee will bow, but just b/c these people have seen and experienced him doesn't mean they will worship
 - Never mistake an experience for surrender. Jesus surrenders himself to them when they should be surrendering themselves to him.
- They bring him before the high priest. A false high priest, a high priest chosen b/c of power, wealth, and nepotism
 - The true high priest who will offer himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the volunteers to be brought before a sinful high priest. Why?
 - Because it is better for one man to die than for the entire people
 - Jesus volunteers for that death b/c no man takes his life, but he gives it freely.
- Who is Jesus? The one who will die so that the people may live.

[15] Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, [16] but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. [17] The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." [18] Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

[19] The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. [20] Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. [21] Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." [22] When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" [23] Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?" [24] Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

[25] Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." [26] 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?" [27] Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

- Peter, Jesus' right hand man, has gone from hero to zero. A few hours earlier he was drawing his sword to fight. Now he denies Jesus in front of a servant girl.
- Who is Jesus? The one who is betrayed by his friends.

- Who is Jesus? The one who is denied by those closest to him.
- After all, who is Jesus? The one who was betrayed and rejected by those who carry his own fingerprints in creation.
- Who is Jesus? The one who respectfully speaks to his accusers yet is beaten as an innocent.
 - They ask him, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” as they strike him.
 - If only they knew the irony! If only they knew how THEY were treating the true high priest!

[28] Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. [29] So Pilate went outside to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” [30] They answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.” [31] Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” The Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.” [32] This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

[33] So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” [34] Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” [35] Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” [36] Jesus answered, “My 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 from the world.” [37] Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” [38] Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

- Betrayed by a trusted companion. Denied by friends. Accused by his own people. Handed over to enemies. Why? To be put to death.
- Who is Jesus? Pilate is perceptive enough to ask, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Yes, Pilate, indeed he is. One day a Jew will rule the world, and he will rule it with a rod of iron, but now is not the time for him to exert that type of rule.
- Jesus explains, “My kingdom is not of this world.”
- Who is Jesus? He is a king, yes - the King from another kingdom - a heavenly kingdom - the kingdom of God.
- Who is Jesus? The one who came to bear witness to the truth. The one who came to find truth-listeners. The one who came to gather sheep who hear his voice.

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. [39] But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” [40] They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.

- The treachery continues. The innocent man will die. The guilty one will go free.

- **Who is Jesus? The King of Truth, the innocent one, the voluntary sacrifice, the pure spotless lamb, the Son of God, the great I AM... who is killed that a robber and a thief might live.**

GUIDED PRAYER AND RESPONSE:

- We've seen who Jesus is. We've seen how people responded to him. How will we?
- First, how should we respond to Jesus? What is an appropriate response?
- *And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil 2:8-11)*
- Let us prayerfully respond to Jesus. Jesus, show us how to respond to you and then empower us to do so!
- **REMINDER: Pray for those who are sick and struggling**

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG:

- All Hail King Jesus