



“The Betrayal of Jesus” (John 18:1-40)

In what should have been the most demeaning experience of His Life, Jesus exhibits beauty and brilliance. Against a backdrop of betrayal by a friend (vv1-3), arrest and bound by the authorities (vv4-14), disowned by another friend (vv15-18, 25-27), attack, interrogation, false accusation, and sentenced to death (vv19-24, 28-40), Jesus' unshakable trust in the Father is a MODEL and the MEANS to help us face life's hurts and injustices with the same trust in the same Father.

How to deal with betrayal and false accusations?

Jesus our MODEL: (1Pet.2:21-23)

- Calmness vv1-2; Mark 1:35; Luke 4:42
- Clarity vv3-4, 10-11, 36; Eph.6:12
- Calling (identity) vv5-8; Ex.3:14; 1Jn.3:1
- Compassion vv8, 10; Eph.4:31-32
- Courage vv19-24, 33-37; 2Tim.1:7
- Candor (integrity) vv20, 37; Eph.4:15, 25

Jesus our MEANS: (1Pet.2:24-25)

The Greatest Problem in the History of the World:

- SIN = Man substituting himself for God. (Gen.3:1-7) vv3, 6
Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be. (John Stott “The Cross of Christ”) vv3, 6
We are all enemies of God (James 4:4) objects of His wrath (Eph.2:3).

The Greatest Solution in the History of the World:

- SALVATION = God substituting Himself for man. (2Cor.5:21)
God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserves to be. vv8, 11, 14, 38-40

The Greatest Kingdom in the History of the World:

- THE KINGDOM OF GOD! vv33-37; Heb.12:25-29; Jn.3:3, 5, 16

In case you forgot...God always wins!

Growing Notes

- 1) How do you think most people would respond to betrayal and false accusations? What difference would trusting in God make in facing life's hurts and injustices?
- 2) Read John 18:1-40. What stands out to you from this text? How is Jesus our model in dealing with betrayal and false accusations (1Pet.2:21-23)? Review the six C's of how to respond to betrayal and false accusations along with corresponding Bible verses.
- 3) Which one(s) of the six C's are strengths and which one(s) growth areas? How is calmness an important part of clarity? How does calling (1Jn.3:1) give you compassion, courage and candor?
- 4) How is Jesus the MEANS to dealing with betrayal and false accusations (1Pet.2:24-25)? What is the greatest problem in the history of the world? Greatest Solution?
- 5) Why is the Kingdom of God the greatest Kingdom in the history of the World (Heb.12:25-29)? How can we be a part of this unshakable Kingdom (John 3:3, 5, 16)? What difference will it make in our everyday lives? Pray.