

John 18:11 - 40

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~ If you have your Bible, you'll want to pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and then open it and read this section of Scripture very carefully before reading this report from our Spiritual Safari. We noticed the majesty and meekness of Jesus in our last report. We saw how the Lord and His disciples, apparently, spent their nights under the open sky. Jesus was born in a stable; He was arrested not in a fine home, but in a garden. For a brief moment He revealed His glory, showing that there could have been no arresting Him without His full cooperation and Personal submission. Jesus is in complete control now, even commanding them whom to arrest and whom not to arrest. Why did Peter lop off Malchus' ear? — Because Peter was a fisherman and not a swordsman — Peter was aiming for Malchus head. Why was Peter not arrested? — Because our Lord commanded the mob that the apostles be allowed to leave. "The cup" Jesus spoke of is the cross; Jesus came to die for our sins. That's where we're going to pick up in this report.

We should note that Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas the high priest, was formerly the high priest. Clever and satanic, he knew how to handle Rome. It was he who plotted the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. The trial was a mockery; they had decided He was going to die before they tried Him. If the Jews had entered the home of a Gentile, as in, the judgment hall, they would have been polluted and unable to eat the Passover. In the name of religion, they are plotting the death of the very One who is the fulfillment of Passover. I HIGHLY suggest you ask yourself today: are you religious, or are you really joined to Christ? ~

11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

~ A few Bible teachers have attempted to number the "cups" in Scripture. Personally, I wouldn't. There's a cup of salvation, for instance. The Psalmist said, "... I will take the cup of salvation and call unto the Name of the

Lord.” There is also a cup of consolation. Jeremiah said, “.... neither shall men tear themselves for them in mourning, to comfort them for the dead; neither shall men give them the cup of consolation to drink for their father or for their mother.” The Psalmist also said, “.... my cup runneth over.” So, the comfort and consolation cup now cross paths with this cup that the Father has given to the Lord Jesus Christ to partake of. Jesus says, “Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me.” This speaks of an awful, dreadful cup of judgment that was bore for us on the cross.

Everyone who turns their back on the Lord Jesus Christ will have that cup pressed to their lips – and they WILL be forced to drink. That should be utterly terrifying to us. There is also a cup of judgment in the Bible; the seven vials spoken of in Revelation are really bowls of wrath that are to be poured upon the wicked. The Psalmist said, “.... upon the wicked He shall reign snares, fire and brimstone and a horrible tempest; this shall be the portion of their cup.” That speaks of the wine cup of fury Christ holds in His hand. Well, Jesus is going to drink of the cup the Father gave Him – not the cup the judge gave Him. Interestingly, this is not a cup of reluctance, but rather, Jesus said He would drink of it, “....for the joy set before Me....” This cup is the highest level of willingness and total obedience to the direct will of God the Father that Jesus could submit to....

12 Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him,

~ The nation Israel, as a people, have accepted Jesus as the Messiah at this point. Remember, they wanted to make Him the King of Israel. They thought He could free them from Rome and feed them for free, too. They're not going to trust or follow Him, but they believe He is Who He says He is. Had they denied Him, they would only have been lying to themselves. They saw the miracles. They knew the blind man who had been healed. They knew the leper on the stretcher at Simon Peter's house. It was the religious rulers who rejected Jesus. Of course, the religious rulers were afraid of the people and what the mob rule could dictate. So, Jesus goes out of the city of Jerusalem to a place where He can make Himself wide open to them. Again, we see Jesus moving forward in dignity and in glory. |

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always laugh when it says they bound Jesus; how ridiculous and unnecessary that was. Jesus is now the Lamb of God that will be slain, and He would have followed them if they just led the way. Remember, He opened not His mouth; as the sheep before the shearers is completely dumb, Jesus offers no resistance at all....

13 And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.

~ John is the only Gospel writer that gives us this information. John, apparently, was in a position to see something that very few other people could see in that day. Caiaphas is the one that the local Roman extension of government accepted. However, the head of the Israeli religious dispatch was old man Annas. Actually, the religious body viewed Annas as being the high priest still. Annas is the one who examined Jesus first, although we're not given those details. Either way, Annas is the orchestrating hand behind this puppet trial of religious ilk....

14 Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

~ "...counsel to the Jews...." mean the religious rulers. We see superstitious beliefs that one person dying would protect the nation Israel from Rome. I am sure the reason John wrote this is to make us understand the religious rulers had already predetermined that Jesus was to die. They aren't interested in facts or a debate. The trial, of course, is nothing but a mockery of justice....

15 And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest.

~ We're talking about John as that disciple known to the high priest. John was, apparently, an insider amongst those in Jerusalem. That would have enabled John to issue a pass for anyone else that he wanted to come in at this time. Simon Peter was brought into the inner court by John. Of course,

we see the home of Caiaphas is no ordinary, run-of-the-mill mansion; this is a palace....

16 But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter.

17 Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not.

18 And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.

~ Well, when Peter drops back from John outside the door we can be sure of one thing: Simon Peter is going to talk. I have the feeling that while Peter spoke, several of the people there listened. As they listened, they immediately pegged Him as being from Galilee. Well, John realizes Peter has fallen out and he goes back to get him. I think that as Peter entered in the gate this woman just asked an innocent question about his identity. After all, she was the door keeper so this would have been an appropriate question for her to ask. So, Peter just shouts out, "I'm not" as he walks on in to warm himself....

19 The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine.

20 Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing.

21 Why askest thou me? ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said.

~ Jesus didn't operate under cover of the night like the religious rulers do. Jesus wasn't doing anything secretly and He wasn't hiding anything from anyone. There were many witnesses that could have stated just about

everything Jesus ever did. The only reason they are asking Jesus of “His doctrine” is because they have no idea how to handle the present situation; and they are fumbling for a pathway to conduct a sham prosecution. Well, next they start the beatings that Jesus will endure the rest of the way from here. What would you have done at a time like this when you had been struck in the face? I’m pretty sure most of us would have struck back. Well, Jesus didn’t strike back. Even as Jesus is subjected to this public humiliation He maintains complete poise and dignity....

22 And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so?

23 Jesus answered him, If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me?

~ Jesus points out that everything the religious rulers and high priest are doing is completely illegal and contrary to the Mosaic System of Levitical Law. That doesn't even slow them down. Their charge is that Jesus broke the Mosaic Law – but THEY are the only ones breaking it. Under the Law of Moses, no trial was ever to be held at night. In fact, no trial could even begin and end on the same day. They were never to smite a prisoner that had not yet been proven guilty, either. These men were totally uninterested in the Mosaic Law; although everything they did was in the name of said system. Do you know any religio-politico fanatics like these Pharisees today? The abruptness of the next verse shows that we have no record of what really happened....

24 Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest.

25 And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not.

26 One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him?

27 Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.

~ Well, we're back to Simon Peter and we see the rugged fisherman standing in a strobing light of flickering fire. If Simon Peter had kept his mouth shut, he wouldn't have had any problems, but Peter could never stop talking; and that's how these people knew who he was. His denial was vociferous. Peter has to act out this way because this is a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off earlier that night; and because he's realizing that what Jesus had said about denying Him has just happened. That's where the weeping starts. Thank God He makes a way for us to come back to Him when we deny Him. Remember, Jesus appeared Personally to Peter later....

28 Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the Passover.

~ John documents the complete phoniness of religion and the genuine article of faith set side by side. Jesus, of course, is the One Who has come to fulfill the Passover and will die on the cross for our sins. If these hypocrites step one foot into this judgment hall, they will not be permitted to participate in the Passover; so, they have to ask Pilate to come out. They are absolutely blind to the fact that they have the Passover offering present with them. Religion is utterly blind today, friends. These men are in a huge rush to get a verdict against Jesus. Well, Pilate will talk to Jesus on the outside and then Pilate will bring Jesus on the inside. Back and forth shall they go in this tremendous byplay that will take us into the nineteenth chapter....

29 Pilate then went out unto them, and said, what accusation bring ye against this man?

30 They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee.

31 Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:

~ The moment they called Jesus a “malefactor” old man Pilate sensed something was wrong. Pilate may have been as dumb as an ox, but he wasn’t stupid, friends. The mob had wanted to make Jesus their king just a few days ago, you will recall. Pilate didn’t want anything to do with any of this religious garbage. Even after Pilate says all of that, they insist on making it clear they want the death penalty for Jesus. Of course, they couldn’t do it themselves; only Rome could perform a crucifixion on a cross. Jesus told the disciples and us a LONG time ago He would go to Jerusalem and be delivered into the hands of Gentiles and be crucified – and – here He is. That fulfillment of His Own prophecy is the ONLY reason we are on this set stage of Roman government at the time in which we are studying....

32 That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die.

33 Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?

~ So, here we go inside as Pilate is dumbfounded; he just can’t believe the audacity it took the religious rulers to bring Jesus before him claiming this man to be the king of the Jews. Well, Jesus has some questions of His Own and He wants to know if Pilate is relying on second-hand information or not. So, these men have requested the death penalty, but Pilate can’t really figure out what Jesus had done wrong. Pilate just didn’t see a charge that merited death....

34 Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?

35 Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?

36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

~ Jesus is NOT saying that His kingdom will not be established on this earth. “Of” means that His authority is not built on the same power structure and politics as the kingdoms of mankind in this world are. This is a very important subtlety to note and comprehend. Jesus Kingdom doesn’t come about through worldly measures or sinful machinations. Jesus isn’t going to run for office down here and be elected to power. That just isn’t the way things are going to happen. The way men build kingdoms brings nothing into the world but war and turmoil, murder, hatred and bitterness; in short: Jesus story is not the story of mankind. Jesus Kingdom is not IN this world – it’s not that type of a Kingdom. Jesus isn’t putting up any resistance and He isn’t contending for power. This is one reason the church could never build a kingdom down here; only Christ can build one....

37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered; Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

39 But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the Passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?

40 Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.

~ In the next leg of our Spiritual Safari we will examine what the death of Jesus meant to the different groups of people we see in this passage. It is a very important study to understand, too. Pilate is most definitely puzzled at this time. Only the blood tipped ear can hear the Spirit of God the rest of the way in John, friends. Even Pilate is now asking, “.... what is truth?”

When someone asks that while standing in the presence of the One Who said, "I am the way, the truth and the light" - it reveals an absolute non-understanding of all things reasonable. Well, we see Jesus taken outside again by Pilate who says he finds no fault in Him at all. Pilate is also looking for a smart way out as he sets Jesus against a murdering thief. There should have been three thieves hanging on a cross that day – not two thieves and a Jesus. Barabbas had robbed so many of these people I think just about every person there had been ripped off in one way or another by this man. Pilate is speechless. He is absolutely amazed at what's happening among these "people of God" at this point in our study; so, we're going to let Pilate sit in amazement until our next report ~

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