

# **Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus**

## **44) A Weak Disciple and a Faithful High Priest**

***'When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them...***

***...Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am He. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way," that the saying might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom You gave Me I have lost none." 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 the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"***

**(John 18:1-11)**

- ✓ **After His prayer Jesus and the disciples crossed the Brook Kidron and went to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives**
- ✓ **Jesus often used the Garden of Gethsemane as a meeting place with His disciples. *'And in the daytime He was teaching in the temple, but at night He went out and stayed on the mountain called Olivet' (Lk.21:37). 'Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him' (Luke 22:39)***
- ✓ **Judas would probably have gone to the upper room where he had left them, and then on to the Garden**

- ✓ **The detachment of Roman troops (*speira*) from Pilate would have been around 600 men. Plus temple guards**
- ✓ **They came with torches and lanterns to find the Light of the world. It was full moon!**
- ✓ **Jesus' answer caused the soldiers to fall to the ground. He simply spoke two monosyllables, and they were overcome**
- ✓ **He didn't say 'I am He', but 'I am'. 'Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins' (Jn.8:24). 'Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He"' (John 8:28)**

- ✓ **Jesus did not need Peter to defend Him. He could have called 12 legions of angels. But His time had come and He submitted to His Father's will**
- ✓ **Malchus was safe while Jesus was there, for no one ever died in His presence!**
- ✓ **He was completely in control. He here showed them, and us, that they were completely at His mercy and not He at theirs**
- ✓ **He told them to let the disciples go that it be fulfilled that He lost none. Neither will He lose us!**

***'Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people'***

**(John 18:12-14)**

- ✓ **Jesus, the spotless, sinless Son of God was tried before 4 crooked leaders. The first, was the greedy, money-hungry Annas**
- ✓ **Annas was high priest between AD 6-15, but was deposed by the Romans and replaced by his son-in-law, Caiaphas**
- ✓ **He hated Jesus because he made a fortune turning the temple into a den of thieves, and this was now in jeopardy**
- ✓ **Jesus would have been brought through the sheep gate**



***'And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in. Then the servant 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." Now the servants and officers who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself'***

**(John 18:15-18)**

- ✓ **Jerusalem is 2600 feet above sea level and at that time of the year the air would be chilly**
- ✓ **Peter and another disciple came into the courtyard, and Peter drew near a charcoal fire to warm himself**
- ✓ **The servant girl probably knew that the other disciple was one of Jesus' disciples and asked Peter if he was too. He denied it**

***'The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said." And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?" Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest'***

**(John 18:19-24)**

**\*Jesus was questioned about His disciples and His doctrine. Annas sought for evidence in either to accuse Him**

**\*Like all of His adversaries today, Annas tried to trap Him. He was not seeking truth**

**\*Jesus said there was no need for him to be questioned because His ministry was always in the open. Unlike the secret plotting, arrest and trial**

**\*Everything about this trial was a farce. Even the striking of Jesus was illegal, because He was found guilty of no crime**

**\*Jesus never stood a chance of justice, or a fair hearing. The trial itself was illegal and should never have gone ahead. a) the arrest was the result of a bribe; b) it should not have been allowed at night; c) capital punishment for an accused could not be announced until the day after a conviction; d) false witnesses testified, etc.**

**\*It was not a trial but a plot. The decision was made long before His arrest, and the reason was envy. The religious leaders were losing their grip on the people. Their position of authority and financial gain were in jeopardy**

**\*But Annas failed to produce any evidence, so he sent Jesus to Caiaphas, the head of the Sanhedrin**

*'Now Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. Therefore they said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not!" One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" Peter then denied again; and immediately a rooster crowed'*  
**(John 18:25-27)**

**\*As the questioning continued Peter became increasingly nervous**

**\*He was recognized by a relative of Malchus. His denials were more vehement**

**\*Judas was wicked; Peter was weak, because he trusted in himself**

**\*Before condemning Peter remember that all the other disciples, except John, had fled**

**\*Our focus should not be on Peter's failure, but on our merciful and faithful High Priest, who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and who will never break a bruised reed**

**\*Because of Jesus, Peter rose again. The same compassionate hand that saved him from drowning, when his faith failed him on the waters, was once more stretched out to raise him when he fell in the high priest's hall**

**\*If Peter's fall makes us aware of own weakness and shows us Christ's great compassion and faithfulness, then it was not in vain**