



“The ‘Arrest’ of the King of Kings”

John 18:1-18

Sermon Date: March 7th, 2021

Reflections on Sunday’s Sermon

Prayer

As you begin your study, spend some time thanking the Lord for His faithfulness to you even though you have not always been faithful to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to sustain your faith and increase your trust in Him no matter the circumstances He chooses to bring your way. As you pray, make the following words your own before the Lord (prayer written by Philip Doddridge and taken from Piercing Heaven: Prayers of the Puritans edited by Robert Elmer).

“Blessed God, I acknowledge before you my own weakness and insufficiency for anything that is spiritually good.

I have experienced it a thousand times, and yet my foolish heart would again trust itself and resolve to move ahead in its own weakness.

But let this be the firstfruits of your gracious influence: to bring it to a humble distrust of itself, and to rest in you.

I rejoice, O Lord, in your assurance that you are ready to shower me with rich benefits. So because of your kind invitation, I boldly approach your throne, to find grace for help in every time of need.

I do not mean to turn your grace into a license for immorality or to make my weakness an excuse for negligence and laziness. You have already given me more strength than I have used.

I want to be found diligent in the use of everything you supply. If not, any petition like this one would be a profane mockery, and would probably provoke you to take away what I have, not impart more.

But as I firmly resolve to exert myself, I ask for your grace to fulfill that resolution.

Fill me with the right attitude toward you and my fellow creatures. Remind me always of your presence, and that every secret of my soul is open to you.

May I guard against the first sign of sin, and may Satan find no room for his evil suggestions. Fill my heart with your Holy Spirit, and take up your residence there.

Dwell in me, walk with me, and let my body be the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Take me from one degree of faith, love, zeal, and holiness, to the next, until I appear perfect before you through Jesus Christ my Lord. In him I have righteousness and strength. Amen.”

Scripture

John 18:1-18 – (English Standard Version)

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.

Handling the Word

1. Our passage takes place in the Garden of Gethsemane. While John gives us one account into what happens in the garden, the other gospel writers give us different perspectives. Take a few minutes to read through the other accounts and write down what you learn about what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46).
2. The passage we are studying mentions two historical figures: Annas and Caiaphas. Look up these men in your Biblical encyclopedia and find out what you can about them. Here are two links that may help:

https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_1314.cfm

https://biblehub.com/sermons/auth/lumby/annas_and_caiaphas.htm

Understanding and Applying

1. There is a telling statement in verse 4: “*Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him...*” In one sense, Jesus knew from Old Testament Prophecy what was going to happen to him. Look up the following verses and write down what they tell us (and Jesus) about what was going to happen to Him. What is your reaction to reading these verses? Humanly speaking, what would you be thinking if you were facing this kind of future?
 - Psalm 22:12-21 –
 - Psalm 69:29 –
 - Isaiah 50:6 –
 - Isaiah 53 –
2. The other reason Jesus knew what was going to happen to him was because he was truly God and so knew all things. Knowing what was going to happen to himself (remember the above verses) and that he was not caught by surprise by any of these events, how does this make what Jesus did all the more profound and sacrificial? How does your appreciation and love for Jesus grow in light of this knowledge?
3. In verse 5, it is evident that the angry mob is looking for someone they believe is just another man as they come seeking “Jesus of Nazareth.” But Jesus responds by saying these powerful words: “*I am he*” (v. 5). Once again, Jesus uses the name of God to refer Himself, “I am.” This is the same name God told Abraham way back at the burning bush in Exodus 3. As you may remember, this is not the first time Jesus has used this name to refer to himself. Look up the following verses and remind yourself of what and who Jesus said He really is and of the promises that go with his statements of divinity (write your findings down below). How do these things encourage you to be faithful and follow Jesus?
 - John 6:35 –
 - John 8:12 –
 - John 10:11 –
 - John 14:6 –
4. When Jesus says His name in verse 5, what is the dramatic response in verse 6 of those who hear? Remember that many of these men are seasoned soldiers—they are courageous and battle-hardened men. What does the response of these kinds of men tell you about Jesus? R.C. Sproul referred to this, and other instances like it, as the *mysterium tremendum*—that is, the terrifying experience of coming face to face with Ultimate Reality. How do many Christians approach Jesus today—with this kind of reverence or with a more casual response? How do we balance these approaches in light of who Jesus is, and how should this impact our worship of Him?

5. How did Peter respond similarly to this *mysterium tremendum* in Luke 5:1-11? Why do you think he responded this way to Jesus? If this was Peter's response, what do you imagine it will be like for unbelievers who will one day come face to face with Jesus, not as their Savior but as their Judge? Write down what you learn from the following verses about unbelievers facing Jesus as their Judge:
- Matthew 25:31-46 –
 - Acts 10:42 –
 - Acts 17:30-31 –
 - Revelation 19:11 –
6. The fact is that many we know and interact with in our daily lives (co-workers, family members, neighbors, etc.) do not know Christ as their Savior, and unless they repent and trust in Christ alone for their salvation, they will face him as their Judge. Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 and write down what our response to knowing their fate and our responsibility as gospel proclaimers must be. What can you do specifically to be a better witness and ambassador of the gospel to the people God has put into your life?
7. This whole passage has an irony about it: The men with the torches and the weapons think they are in charge. They have the numbers and the weapons. However, so many things in this passage shout out that Jesus is the one who is truly in charge. As you read through this passage, particularly verses 4-11, write down statements that tell us Jesus is truly in charge of this whole situation. How does this encourage you that even in the midst of a situation like this, Jesus is still in total control and proving his sovereignty over all circumstances? What difference should this make in your everyday life?
8. In verses 12-14, Jesus faces the first of his several upcoming trials before the religious leaders, and we learn that Caiaphas advised that it would be better for one man to die than for the nation. While he was thinking on a purely pragmatic level, the statement has profound spiritual meaning. Look up the following verses, dwell on them, and write down what you learn about the One dying for the sins of many (remember, one of those “*many*” was you). How do these truths impact your own relationship with Jesus and cause you to be thankful, obedient, and worship him more?
- Romans 3:21-26 –
 - Romans 5:6-11 –
 - 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 –
 - 2 Corinthians 5:21 –

9. We see Jesus' understanding of the task before him as he responds to Peter in verse 11, "*shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?*" Jesus has referred to this cup before (Matthew 26:39; Mark 10:38)—the cup of God's wrath, which Jesus would "drink" as he paid for our sins on the cross. Look up the following verses and write down what you learn about Jesus taking upon himself the wrath of God for us. Theologically, we call this the doctrine of propitiation, that is the satisfaction of God's wrath through Jesus' death. Spend some time in praise, thanksgiving, and worship in response to reading these truths. How might these truths and the reality of the gospel encourage you to live more faithfully for God?
- Romans 3:25 –
 - Hebrews 2:17 –
 - 1 John 2:2 –
10. At the end of our passage (vv. 15-18), we read Peter's first of three denials of Jesus. As you may remember, this is exactly what Jesus said that Peter would do (John 13:36-38). Before we judge Peter too harshly, can you relate at all to both Peter's bold proclamation of what he would do for Jesus (John 13:37) and his denial of Jesus (John 18:17)? Have you ever done something similar? Might you be bold enough to share with your group? How might you be encouraged to continue in your faith knowing that even after Peter's failure, Jesus used him mightily in the days ahead?
11. What truth in this passage has altered or enhanced your view of Jesus Christ and the good news about Him? How will this truth impact the way you live for, and worship, Him?

"Let us leave the passage with the comfortable reflection that we have a merciful High Priest, who can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and will not break the bruised reed. Peter no doubt fell shamefully, and only rose again after heartfelt repentance and bitter tears. But he did rise again...If Peter's fall has made Christians see more clearly their own great weakness and Christ's great compassion, then Peter's fall has not been in vain."

J.C. Ryle