

# THE NIGHT THEY BOUND THE SAVIOR

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**OPEN:** “You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you...”

## (PICTURE OF KIDRON VALLEY)

- It's been a long day, Jesus and His men have crossed the Kidron Valley (a valley on the eastern side of Jerusalem separating the Temple Mount from the Mt. of Olives. It snakes its way to the Dead Sea, descending 4000 feet along its 20-mile course).
- ✓ Along its slopes was a garden of olive trees; a fitting place for the story of redemption to climax.
  - From one garden to another...the garden of Eden to the garden of Gethsemane.

## (PICTURE OF GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE)

- The word Gethsemane means: where the olive is crushed. During Jesus' day, ripe olives were placed in a stone basin...a donkey pushed a horizontal beam which turned a millstone that crushed the olives ...the oil ran into a pit and collected in clay jars...it was used for cooking, medicine and fuel.
  - Imagery: the weight of our sins would crush Jesus...he would endure extensive suffering so we could be forgiven.
- It is one or two in the morning when this event takes place...a small army of soldiers have come out to arrest Jesus.
- ✓ There is a lot John doesn't tell us (the traitor's kiss, Pilate's hand washing, the three-hour darkness, the repentance of one of the thieves...) no need for the other Gospels cover those topics.

- He tells us of:

## 1) JESUS' **BETRAYAL** (JOHN 18:1-14). *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- Knowing what was coming you might expect Jesus to be in hiding...He is not.
  - ✓ Jesus had often taken His men to this spot.
  - ✓ He went here deliberately so Judas might find Him.
- Judas doesn't come to the garden alone...**vs. 3 he has with him a contingent** (detachment of troops, band of men) **of Roman soldiers and Temple guards.**
  - ✓ How many soldiers does it take to arrest one man?
  - ✓ There were 300 to 600 specially trained Roman soldiers stationed nearby. Should there be a problem or riot these men would spring into action.
  - ✓ Add to this number the Temple police...Jews and Gentiles joined together on this "raid in the night" led by Judas.
- They were armed to the teeth (**vs. 3 blazing torches, lanterns and weapons**).
  - ✓ Lanterns = "lampas," a bright shining light...a light to penetrate the dark...equivalent to our flashlights today.
  - ✓ Torches – an oil lamp with a long wick...it could burn all night if necessary.
  - ✓ Even though it was Passover (full moon) they came prepared to search the caves and caverns.
  - ✓ They came in the night looking for "the light of the world" and He wasn't hiding.
- They carried their weapons...Roman soldiers wore full body armor: belt, breastplate, greaves, spikes, shoes, oblong shield, a brass helmet, a sword and a lance...ready for battle.

**(PICTURE OF ROMAN SOLDIER)**

- ✓ What did they expect? Had Judas told them of His supernatural powers?
- ✓ Judas was aware that on numerous occasions the religious leaders tried unsuccessfully to catch Jesus...but He seemed to vanish and slip right through their fingers.
- ✓ Did Judas expect the disciples to put up a fight?
- ❖ Seems Judas had the wrong perception of Jesus...even though he had spent 3+ years with Jesus, he didn't really know Him.
  - ✓ Jesus could have called on the angels for back up but that wasn't the plan.
  - ✓ Judas had the wrong ideas about Jesus.
- ❖ The next time someone has the wrong perception about you, don't let it ruffle your feathers too much...after all have you ever had the wrong perception about someone else?
  - ✓ Sometimes people will misunderstand or misjudge you...you go on being who you are supposed to be and carrying out your assignment.
- One of John's objectives is to show us who Jesus is.
  - ✓ **Vs. 4 Jesus steps forward and asks them: who are you looking for?**
    - Their answer was intended to be an insult: **Jesus the Nazarene (vs. 5)**. Nazareth, located in the northern (agricultural) regions of Israel.
      - The Galileans were considered less sophisticated, the "rednecks" of their day.
  - ✓ Jesus' answer set'em back: **I AM (ego eimi)**. He laid claim to the divine name of God.
    - I AM Jehovah...used 9 times in John's Gospel.
- Jesus steps out, Judas stood with them and Peter drew his sword (good thing he didn't have a pistol in his pocket).
  - ✓ Peter was a fisherman, not a soldier, he filleted a guy's ear right off his head.

- ✓ Oops...a bloody ear lie on the ground...Luke tells us He reattaches it...no doubt settling the tension of the moment.
- ✓ Jesus protects His men (vs. 12) He is arrested and bound...heaven's army must have drawn their swords at that.

## 2) PETER'S DENIAL (JOHN 18:15-27). *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- We have all encountered spiritual failure...even the best among us.
  - ✓ The same Peter that walked on water and took on 600 soldiers...failed to live up to His commitment.

Why do we fail?

a) We become confident in our self.

- ✓ Peter publicly said...*these other men might abandon you but I won't...*
- ✓ He even goes so far as to argue with Jesus...*Jesus told him he would deny Him (Mark 14:31) but Peter kept insisting...even if I have to die for you I will not deny you.*

❖ Don't get too big for your own britches.

b) We don't pray like we should.

- ✓ In the Garden of Gethsemane...Peter is sleeping when he is supposed to be praying.
- ✓ Prayer is what gives us power when we are tempted. There is a direct correlation between praying and purity.
- ✓ Prayer is hard work and requires discipline.
- ✓ Peter failed God in public because he ignored God in private.

c) We take things in our own hands.

- ✓ Jesus told Peter to put his sword away.

- ✓ It is not by our own will power but God's power that our marriages, families, ministries will be what they need to be.
  - ✓ This doesn't mean we don't work but that we work with God...do as He instructs.
- ❖ Great achievements can be followed by great failure but terrible sin can be followed by wonderful forgiveness...this will be seen in the last chapter of John.

### 3) JESUS' TRIAL (JOHN 18:28-40). *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- Caiaphas (High Priest) and his cronies (Sanhedrin – religious court comprised of 71 members) condemn Jesus to die.
    - ✓ Cases of this magnitude were to be held only in the day time but this was done at night.
    - ✓ If the death penalty was on the table...members were to be given a day to think and ponder it...they would return the next day with their verdict...of course, in Jesus' case, there was no time for that.
    - ✓ Jesus is sent to Pilate's place (Pilate is the Gentile governor)...they were seeking death by crucifixion.
  - These religious men didn't go inside Pilate's palace lest they be declared unclean...unfit to celebrate the Passover.
    - ✓ There before them was the Passover lamb but they were too busy playing religious games, then to seek the truth.
- ❖ Don't let religion keep you from seeking Jesus.
- Pilate tries to get out of this predicament that he found himself in...after all his wife had warned him not to get involved (**Matthew 27:19**).
    - ✓ Pilate saw no reason to condemn the man to death and told them so (Matthew tells us how he washed his hands of the situation).
    - ✓ He had one last trick up his sleeve...it was customary at Passover to release a criminal.

- He offers to the crowd, Barabbas...some translations say he was a robber, a highway bandit, a revolutionary.
  - A terrorist or guerrilla fighter...one who participates in bloody insurrections.
  - We don't know if his crime was political or for personal gain (greed).
  - This man was facing death by crucifixion...he was released, freed and Jesus would soon hang on the middle cross.
- ❖ We see it today...wrong is cheered and righteousness is mocked.
- We don't know what became of Barabbas.
- ❖ Couple of lessons to apply:
- When faced with a decision...investigate, get the facts and check out your sources.
  - Be decisive...don't pass the buck, accept responsibility and do the right thing.
  - Don't let others intimidate you or sway you from the truth.
  - Investigate Christ...who is He?
    - ✓ Don't procrastinate...you must decide for yourself.
    - ✓ Don't gamble away your eternity.

**CLOSE:**

- Jesus knows what it is like to have a "friend" turn on Him. Stay true to who you are and your mission.
- We all fail from time to time. Take some proactive steps:
  - ✓ Put your trust in God.

- ✓ Pray continually.
- ✓ Follow the Holy Spirit's leading.
- Pilate passed the buck...don't let others intimidate you...do what's right.

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**Message Notes**  
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