



Portrait of Christ

Sketches in the Gospel of John

Inductive Discovery Lesson 19

John 18:1-40

Jesus: Betrayed Master

They came with torches, clubs and swords. The sleepy disciples tried to rouse themselves and stumble to their feet...what was happening? At first, they only saw Jesus standing over them in the moonlight, His face streaked with sweat and blood. He said it was time to go. Then all at once, Judas emerged from the gnarled olive trees leading a band of men toward them.

Aware of the darkness surrounding Him, Jesus stepped into the torchlight and asked, “**Whom do you seek?**” Someone in the crowd answered, “Jesus, the Nazarene.” Coming to arrest a *man*, they were unprepared to be arrested by God Himself. “**I am.**” Jesus’ answer sent His captors backwards to the ground! What a strange scene it must have been as they struggled to their feet. Then in one last, rash attempt at courage that night, Peter bolted toward a servant and cut off his ear! “**Stop!**” Jesus said, “*No more of this.*” Then Jesus touched the man’s ear and healed him (Luke 22:51).

While the frightened disciples scattered into the night, Jesus allowed Himself to be bound and led away.

Working Text for John 18:1-40
New Living Translation (NLT)

1 After saying these things, Jesus crossed the Kidron Valley with His disciples and entered a grove of olive trees. **2** Judas, the betrayer, knew this place, because Jesus had gone there many times with His disciples. **3** The leading priests and Pharisees had given Judas a battalion of Roman soldiers and Temple guards to accompany him. Now with blazing torches, lanterns, and weapons, they arrived at the olive grove. **4** Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to Him. Stepping forward to meet them, He asked, "Whom are you looking for?" **5** "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am He," Jesus said. Judas was standing there with them when Jesus identified Himself. **6** And as He said, "I am He," they all fell backward to the ground! **7** Once more He asked them, "Whom are you searching for?" And again they replied, "Jesus of Nazareth." **8** "I told you that I am He," Jesus said. "And since I am the one you want, let these others go." **9** He did this to fulfill His own statement: "I have not lost a single one of those You gave Me." **10** Then Simon Peter drew a sword and slashed off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest's servant. **11** But Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Shall I not drink from the cup the Father has given Me?"

12 So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied Him up. **13** First they took him to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. **14** Caiaphas was the one who had told the other Jewish leaders, "Better that one should die for all."

15 Simon Peter followed along behind, as did another of the disciples. That other disciple was acquainted with the high priest, so he was allowed to enter the courtyard with Jesus. **16** Peter stood outside the gate. Then the other disciple spoke to the woman watching at the gate, and she let Peter in. **17** The woman asked Peter, "Aren't you one of Jesus' disciples?" "No," he said, "I am not." **18** The guards and the household servants were standing around a charcoal fire they had made because it was cold. And Peter stood there with them, warming himself.

19 Inside, the high priest began asking Jesus about His followers and what He had been teaching them. **20** Jesus replied, "What I teach is widely known, because I have preached regularly in the synagogues and the Temple. I have been heard by people everywhere, and I teach nothing in private that I have not said in public. **21** Why are you asking Me this question?"

Ask those who heard Me. They know what I said.” **22** One of the Temple guards standing there struck Jesus on the face. “Is that the way to answer the high priest?” he demanded. **23** Jesus replied, “If I said anything wrong, you must give evidence for it. Should you hit a man for telling the truth?” **24** Then Annas bound Jesus and sent Him to Caiaphas, the high priest.

25 Meanwhile, as Simon Peter was standing by the fire, they asked him again, “Aren’t you one of His disciples?” “I am not,” he said. **26** But one of the household servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Didn’t I see you out there in the olive grove with Jesus?” **27** Again Peter denied it. And immediately a rooster crowed.

28 Jesus’ trial before Caiaphas ended in the early hours of the morning. Then He was taken to the headquarters of the Roman governor. His accusers didn’t go in themselves because it would defile them, and they wouldn’t be allowed to celebrate the Passover feast. **29** So Pilate, the governor, went out to them and asked, “What is your charge against this man?” **30** “We wouldn’t have handed Him over to you if He weren’t a criminal!” they retorted. **31** “Then take Him away and judge Him by your own laws,” Pilate told them. “Only the Romans are permitted to execute someone,” the Jewish leaders replied. **32** This fulfilled Jesus’ prediction about the way He would die.

33 Then Pilate went back inside and called for Jesus to be brought to him. “Are you the King of the Jews?” he asked Him. **34** Jesus replied, “Is this your own question, or did others tell you about Me?” **35** “Am I a Jew?” Pilate asked. “Your own people and their leading priests brought You here. Why? What have You done?” **36** Then Jesus answered, “I am not an earthly king. If I were, My followers would have fought when I was arrested by the Jewish leaders. But My Kingdom is not of this world.” **37** Pilate replied, “You are a king then?” “You say that I am a king, and you are right,” Jesus said. “I was born for that purpose. And I came to bring truth to the world. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.”

38 “What is truth?” Pilate asked. Then he went out again to the people and told them, “He is not guilty of any crime. **39** But you have a custom of asking me to release someone from prison each year at Passover. So if you want me to, I’ll release the King of the Jews.” **40** But they shouted back, “No! Not this man, but Barabbas!” (Barabbas was a criminal.)



INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

Look for a spiritual lesson. Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

John 18:1-11

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

John 18:12-27

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

John 18:28-40

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the chapter is about. _____

Give a simple title to the chapter to help you remember what it says. _____



Take A Closer Look

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king.
For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world,
to bear witness to the truth.
Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.”

John 18:37^{ESV}

Memorize God’s Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

Meditate on God’s Word

While you memorize this verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea—the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God’s Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

(Challenge alert: You won’t always see an obvious answer directly from the verse.)

Look up. What does this verse show you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, or His promises.)

Look around. What does this teach you about life or people in general?

Look within. What does this teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



God's Word Bearing Fruit

For you personally, what has been the most important lesson from this chapter?
How will you put what you have learned into practice?

Something to Think About . . .

In most trials, people are tried for what they have done, but this was not true of Christ.
Jesus was tried for who He was.

Josh McDowell

Message Notes:



A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or message template. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the area. The edges of the rectangle are irregular and jagged, giving it the appearance of a piece of torn paper. The background of the area is a light gray color.

