

# Confessions And Denials- John 18

Have you ever been put into a situation where you were pressured to lie? Maybe you were not friends with a person but to make yourself look better you lied. Have you ever been in a situation where you were friends with someone that no one at all cared for and you were ashamed of that friendship so you said you were not friends? Have you ever had a person ask if you were a Christian and it was hard to tell the truth or you at least felt pressure? One important theme in the Gospel of John is telling the truth about Jesus. John 1:49; 4:29; 6:69; 11:27; 20:28. This makes sense because He always told the truth about who He was. This theme continues in Chapter 18 on the eve of His death. People are pressured not to confess Him and Jesus is pressured to hide who He is but His hour had come.

## 1. His First Confession- John 18:1-11

### a. V1-2

- i. Jesus had finished the discourse in Jn. 14-17 and now they left the upper room.
- ii. See PowerPoint for pics of the trip from the upper room to garden of Gethsemane.
- iii. We are not told about other events in John's account. (prayers, apostles sleep)
- iv. The Garden of Gethsemane is on the Mount of Olives, a historic place of great meaning throughout the Bible. The Mount of Olives was a "Sabbath day's walk from the city," we are told in Acts 1:12. Easton's 1897 Bible Dictionary tells us the Mount of Olives was named as such because it was clothed in olive trees.
- v. King David and his followers fled Jerusalem through the Kidron Valley and up the Mount of Olives, weeping and barefoot, after his son Absalom rebelled with an uprising (2 Samuel 15:13-30).
- vi. Zechariah prophesied that "a day of the Lord" would be coming when the Lord would stand upon the Mount of Olives, ready for battle, and be king over the whole earth (Zechariah 14:1-9).

### b. V3-4

- i. Jesus is in complete control of this situation
- ii. He knew Judas would do this- 6:64, 6:71, 13:2,11
- iii. Delivered him up is another phrase for betrayal in v5
- iv. He knew all things- v4

### c. V5-9

- i. I am He (in v5,6,8) was first off an amazing example of Jesus' humanity. He was also I AM
- ii. Man always falls to the ground in the presence of God- John 7:46
- iii. John 10:18- No one takes my life from me but I lay it down

### d. V10-11

- i. Peter's denial
- ii. If Jesus desires to drink the cup who are we to say no?
- iii. We must not Jesus confess Jesus in name but by refraining from doing things even when it is unquestionably hard
- iv. Peter used the wrong sword- Then Jesus \*said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. Matthew 26:52

## 2. His Second Confession- John 18:12-27

### a. V12-14

- i. Arrested AND BOUND HIM? Really? Then Led Him (Unnecessary force) V24 too
- ii. Annas was Caiaphas' Father in law- John 11:48-50

### b. V15-18

- i. Peter's next denial came as he stood outside and John went in.
- ii. He was probably left outside because of his relationship to Malchus (18:16; 26)
- iii. Jesus said I am- Peter said I am NOT

- iv. He was willing to cut off an ear but not tell the truth to a servant girl (maid)
- v. Application- Don't let your ego, peer pressure, or thinking no one will know cause you to deny Jesus.
- vi. Peter warmed himself by the fire (18,25)
- vii. We are required to confess Jesus throughout our Christian life- 1 John 2:23; 4:15

**c. V19-24**

- i. Confession 1- I always spoke and taught publicly- Ask the listeners- v20-21
- ii. Most translations say He received multiple slaps across the face
- iii. V23- The Greek word for flay is used- This was severe and just the beginning
- iv. Jesus was courageous, unrelenting and committed to the plan; US?
- v. He was always in control- How well do we keep our cool?
  1. 18:4 – Jesus, knowing all things...
  2. 18:4-7 – “Whom do you seek?” ... “I am He”
  3. 18:8 – “Let these go” ... “Lost none.”
  4. 18:11 – “Put up the sword”
  5. 18:21 – Rebuked the high priest (witnesses?)
  6. 18:32 – Jesus' words fulfilled
  7. 18:36 – “My servants did not fight”
  8. 18:37 – “You say rightly I am a King”
- vi. Confession 2- He says He only did what was right and find witnesses for His wrong doing to justify the slap
- vii. They found false ones (Mt 26:59- 68)
- viii. More to come with these two- Acts 4:6-10

**d. V25-27**

- i. Peter's other denials
- ii. Matthew 26:73- His accent betrayed Him (Mk 14:70- Galilean)
- iii. Matthew 26:74- He invoked a curse on Himself and swore
- iv. Luke 22:60-62-While he was still speaking the rooster crowed and Jesus turned and looked at Him and Peter remembered and he went out and wept bitterly
- v. John 18:26- One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him
- vi. Lessons
  1. You're not as strong as you think you are.
  2. You're not as weak as you fear you are.
  3. Our God is greater. He never denied. We must lean on Him for help always.

**3. His Third Confession- John 18:28-40**

- a. V28-32- Outside the Praetorium
  - i. V32- John 3:14; 12:32-34; Deut 21:23
- b. V33-37- Inside the Praetorium
  - i. Are you King of the Jews- John 1:49
  - ii. Another Confession- John 18:36; John 3:3-5
  - iii. Another Confession- John 18:37; John 10:27
  - iv. Pilate did not know what truth was- Jesus is truth
- c. V38-40- Back outside
  - i. What is truth? That's all that was said...isn't it amazing that 200 years later this question is still being asked and with the same amount of evidence to understand what truth is?
  - ii. They cried out to release Barabbas per the custom and despite no fault found
  - iii. We can believe say with full conviction Jesus Is The Christ The Son Of God- John 20:3- The big question is are we? Have we? Will we?