



WEEK 8 HANDOUT – The Son on Trial

BAND of BROTHERS SPRING/2021

Key Verse: “I find no fault in Him...” – John 18:38 ESV

- **The darkness versus the light**

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and **darkness** was over the face of the deep...*

*And God said, “Let there be **light**,” and there was **light**. And God saw that **the light** was good. And God separated **the light** from **the darkness**. – Genesis 1:1-2, 3-4 ESV*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.** – John 1:1-5 ESV*

- The image of darkness and light is one of John’s favorite metaphors
*[John] came as a witness, to bear witness about **the light**... – John 1:7 ESV*

***The true light**, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. – John 1:9 ESV*

***God is light**, and in him is **no darkness** at all. – 1 John 1:5 ESV*

*...if we walk in **the light**, as he is in **the light**, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. – 1 John 1:7 ESV*

***“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in **darkness**, but will have the light of life.”** – John 8:12 ESV*

***“The light** is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have **the light**, lest*

darkness overtake you. The one who walks in **the darkness** does not know where he is going. While you have **the light**, believe in **the light**, that you may become **sons of light.**”
– John 12:35-36 ESV

- **Darkness and light face off in a garden**

*He [Satan] said to the woman, “**Did God actually say**, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” – Genesis 3:1 ESV*

*But the serpent said to the woman, “**You will not surely die.** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” – Genesis 3:4-5 ESV*

- Eden versus Gethsemane

*So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews **arrested Jesus and bound him.** – John 18:12 ESV*

- In Eden, Satan attacked the word of God
- In Gethsemane, he confronts the Living Word
- Darkness attempts to overcome the Light
- The Creator-God is going to be put on trial by those whom He created
- This is **not** a biography of Jesus’ life
- It is **not** a historical record of past events
- It is a description of a centuries-old spiritual battle between God and the forces of evil

“I don’t have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. He has no power over me...” – John 14:30 NLT

- All the forces of wickedness are gathering against Jesus

Judas	The guards	Satan & his demons	The Sanhedrin
Caiaphas	Pontius Pilate	Herod Antipas	The people

For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. – Ephesians 6:12 NLT

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. – Romans 8:38 NLT

- **Two Tandem Trials**

- There are two trials taking place simultaneously
 - One to determine Peter’s **loyalty**

First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people. – John 18:13-14 ESV

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, 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. – John 18:15-16 ESV

*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.**” – John 18:17 ESV*

- Remember how Jesus responded in the garden
*“Whom do you seek?” They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “**I am he.**” – John 18:4-5 ESV*

- Three times Peter is given a chance to identify himself
“You’re not one of that man’s disciples, are you?” – vs 17

“You’re not one of his disciples, are you?” – vs 25

“Didn’t I see you out there in the olive grove with Jesus?” – vs 26

- Peter vehemently denied even knowing Jesus
- His **humanity** failed the test
*“Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but **the flesh is weak.**” – Matthew 26:41 ESV*

*“It is the Spirit who gives life; **the flesh is no help at all.**” – John 6:63 ESV*

- At this point, Peter is operating in the flesh
- He couldn’t even admit that he was a disciple of Christ

- The other to test Jesus’ **divinity**

*The **high priest** then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. – vs 19*

“If you are the Christ, tell us.” – Luke 22:67 ESV

“Are you the Son of God, then?” – Luke 22:70 ESV

*So **Pilate** entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” – vs 33*

“So you are a king?” – vs 37

Jesus’ interrogators...

Annas

- The high-priest-emeritus
- He had been removed in AD 15 by Valerius Gratus, procurator of Judea
- The patriarch of the high-priestly dynasty

Caiaphas

- The son-in-law of Annas and the current high priest
- He was appointed by and served at the behest of Rome

Pontius Pilate

- The current Roman procurator or governor of Judea

Herod Antipas

- The son of Herod the Great
- He was the Roman-appointed tetrarch or governor of Galilee

- **The kingship of Jesus**

*So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “**Are you the King of the Jews?**” – John 18:33 ESV*

- The entire conversation revolved around the topics of kingdom and rule
 - The Jews had accused Jesus of claiming to be the king of Israel
 - Pilate wanted to know if this was true
 - He was amazed that Jesus’ own people had turned Him in

“Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” – John 18:35 ESV

- This was in keeping with something John wrote earlier in His gospel:

*He came to his own, and **his own people did not receive him.** – John 1:11 ESV*

*And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and **people loved the darkness rather than the light** because their works were evil. – John 3:19 ESV*

- Jesus’ Kingdom versus the world
 - Jesus clearly differentiated between His Kingdom and any worldly kingdom
My kingdom is not of this world. – vs 36

But my kingdom is not from the world. – vs 36

- Pilate wants to know if Jesus is a king

“So you are a king?” – vs 37

- The long-awaited King

“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

- This is the whole point of chapter 18
- Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise that God made to King David

*“When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and **I will establish his kingdom.** He shall build a house for my name, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever....**And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. **Your throne shall be established forever.**” – 2 Samuel 7:12-13, 16 ESV*

- **The rule and reign of Jesus**

- He was the long-awaited King of Israel
- He had come to earth in order to reign
- He had been born the heir to David’s Kingdom
- His purpose was to restore the rule and reign of God on the earth
- And to defeat the forces of evil and darkness

One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will the Kingdom of God come?”

*Jesus replied, “The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs. You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ **For the Kingdom of God is already among you.**” – Luke 17:20-21 NLT*

- His miracles were proof of His power the physical world
- Casting out demons proved His power over the spiritual world
- He constantly demonstrated His kingly authority and power

*“But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then **the kingdom of God has already overtaken you.**” – Matthew 12:28 NET*

*The reason the Son of God appeared was **to destroy the works of the devil.** – 1 John 3:8 ESV*

*“Now is the judgment of this world; **now the ruler of this world will be driven out.**” – John 12:31 NET*

- The King had come
- And the battle between darkness and light was about to reach its climax
- Jesus didn't die so He could become King
- He was the King who had come to die
- He was the **Sovereign** who became the **Suffering Servant**

- **What is truth?**

Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” – John 18:37-38 ESV

- Pilate was confused by Jesus' statement
- But so are we
- Pilate was focused on subjective truth, while Jesus offered Himself as objective truth

*“I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.” – John 14:6 ESV*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, **full of grace and truth**. – John 1:14 ESV*

*For the law was given through Moses, **but grace and truth came about through Jesus Christ**. – John 1:17 ESV*

- The truth **was** Jesus – the conquering King
- Who had come to defeat the ruler of this world

- **The rejection of the King**

“So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber. – John 18:39-40 ESV

- **For Further Discussion**

- Read Luke 4:16-18. How does this passage influence your reading of John 18:40?
- Why should it make a difference that John is describing a cosmic spiritual battle and not just a moment in history?
- Why is the kingship of Jesus so vital? And how have we minimized it to our own detriment?