

LIFE IN HIM

Andy Deane · 09/11/2022 · John 18

By looking at how 7 people answer the question, ‘*who is it you want?*’ in John 18:4, we’ll see the fallacy of finding our ultimate fulfillment in anything besides Jesus.

John 18:1-40, ¹ When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it...³ So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers... They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. ⁴ Jesus...asked them, “Who is it you want?” ⁵ “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “I am he,” Jesus said... ⁶ When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground... ⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.” ⁹ This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.” ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) ¹¹ Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?” ¹² Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him ¹³ and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year... ¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus... ¹⁷ “You aren’t one of this man’s disciples too, are you?” she asked Peter. He replied, “I am not.” ... ¹⁹ Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. ²⁰ “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.” ²² When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded. ²³ “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest... ²⁸ Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor... ²⁹ So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?” ³⁰ “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.” ³¹ Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” ... ³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” ³⁴ “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?” ³⁵ ...Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?” ³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” ³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” ³⁸ “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. ³⁹ But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?” ⁴⁰ They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

WHAT IS IT YOU SOMETIMES WANT INSTEAD OF JESUS?

#1 We Want: MORE MONEY.

So Judas came to the garden (18:3)

- Why? We think it’ll make us happy.
- Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.
- 1 Timothy 6:10, *the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil...*
- Proverbs 8:4-5, *Do not wear yourself out to get rich...*
- Jesus offers: an inheritance
- 1 Peter 1:4, *an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade.*

#2 We Want: AN ENEMY TO BLAME.

soldiers...*carrying torches, lanterns, and weapons* (18:3)

- Why? We hope it’ll take the focus off of our own faults.

- The soldiers were ready for a fight!
- Jesus offers: sanctification & holiness
- 1 Corinthians 1:30, *you are in Christ Jesus...our righteousness, holiness and redemption.*
- 2 Corinthians 7:1, *...perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*

#3 We Want: TO CONTROL EVERYTHING.

Annas...the father-in-law of...the high priest (18:13)

- Why? We're scared of being at the mercy of others.
- Annas was holding onto power that wasn't his anymore.
- Jesus offers: His sovereignty
- Romans 8:28, *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.*
- Matthew 10:29-31, *...30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered...*

#4 We Want: TO LOVE JESUS PRIVATELY.

she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not". (18:17)

- Why? We are afraid of death, but also loss of friends!
- Peter was afraid to die if he proclaimed the truth publicly.
- Jesus offers: courage
- Matthew 10:26-28, *26 "do not be afraid of them... 27 What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight..."*

#5 We Want: TO BE RESPECTED.

one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face (18:22)

- Why? We want others to take us seriously.
- This official seems like he was trying to impress someone to gain respect.
- Jesus offers: a new identity
- 2 Peter 2:9, *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation...*
- Matthew 3:17, *And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

#6 We Want: CONSISTENCY.

sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest (18:24)

- Why? We are scared of the unknown that change brings.
- Caiaphas wanted the old covenant to stay that way forever.
- Jesus offers: a new covenant & a new creation
- Hebrews 8:13, *By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete...*
- 2 Corinthians 5:17, *if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

#7 We Want: TO BE LEFT ALONE.

Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him" (18:31)

- Why? We are done trusting people and tired of being hurt
- Pilate just wanted this mob to leave him alone.
- Jesus offers: to never leave us
- Hebrews 13:5, *God has said, "Never will I leave you..."*

BARABBAS: John 18:40

He's mentioned in all four gospels and has become a type for all sinners. God wants us to pay attention to him and to see ourselves in him. We all have sinned, stand guilty, and deserve death. But Barabbas is a gospel parable to teach us that our freedom from condemning guilt isn't achieved by anything we do; but by Jesus dying in our place.