

John 18: THE GREAT EXCHANGE: The Arrest And Trial.

I. (1-9) Jesus Arrested His followers are free.

There is only Jesus against a small army, but Jesus is mightier than this **detachment of troops**.

It was an illegal arrest, it was unlawful to arrest suspects at night in Roman Empire. The soldiers come out in number and well equipped, probably expecting much resistance or a public demonstration. They were thrown back by His **I AM** introduction. Jesus demonstrates to them how powerful He was and how in control He was; meekness, power in control.

Jesus willingly gave Himself up so He could protect His disciples. After all, He could have just kept saying **I AM** and walked away!

II. (10-27) Peter, Jesus before Annas and Caiphas.

It was illegal to parade Jesus before the retired High Priest. It was illegal under the Romans and the Biblical Law for the High Priest to prosecute Jesus Christ without any witnesses against Him.

The courageous, zealous Peter is his lowest moments of cowardice in his pursuit of the LORD, denying Him thrice as predicted. "He was bold with a sword in his hand, but a coward before a servant girl."

III. (28-40) Jesus before Pilate.

Pilate was known to be rigid, ruthless and arrogant."

The Priest couldn't even step into the trial chamber fearing that they would become unclean and thus disqualify themselves from observing Passover.

To Pilate, another "king" was a rival. The Romans acquired their empire through war and bloodshed against their victims but Jesus's Kingdom was peaceful.

Rome is gone, but the Kingdom of Jesus marches on.

Neither Pilate nor the Priests and the general public could pin Him with any crime.

The crowd rejected Jesus and embraced Barabbas who was in prison because of sin; if anyone should be able to say, "Jesus died for me," it was Barabbas. He knew what it was to have Jesus die on his behalf and not Barabbas only, but Peter, John, James, Matthew, Jude...and all of us.

A transaction has been initiated; the great exchange is happening (the innocent for the guilty).

Jesus was arrested so that His followers would be free from the prison of sin.

The Kenyan Independence Day was approaching, and the nursery school teacher took the opportunity to tell her class about patriotism. "We live in a great country," she said. "One of the things we should be happy is that, in this country, we were freed from the British." One little boy came walking up to her from the back of the room. He stood with his hands on his hips and said, "I'm not free. I'm four."

Psalm 146:7 - *Who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.*

Isaiah 61:1 [Luke 4:18] - *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim **liberty to the captives**, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*

He was unjustly tried to justify repentant sinners.

Romans 5:18 - *Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.*

What is justification? It is the declared purpose of God to regard and treat those sinners who believe in Jesus Christ as if they had not sinned...It is not mere pardon. He has taken our place...He has met the descending stroke of justice, which would have fallen on our own heads...

One day I was giving a tour of the local court house. There was a court case in recess as I was showing the group around. I showed them the lawyers, judge, stenographers, jury, and court clerk. "As you can see there are a lot of different people that are involved in making this system work," I commented. At that point the prisoner that was sitting there yelled out, "but I'm the one who makes it all happen!"

Titus 3:3-7 - *For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*