***The Gospel of John: So that you may believe***

**The Arrest and Trial of Jesus**

**John 18**

**Jesus Controls His Arrest**

John 18:1-11, Acts 2:22-24, 4:27-28

**Peter Denies Knowing Jesus**

 John 18:15-27; Luke 22:60-62

**King Jesus Before Governor Pilate**

 John 18:28-40,

* ***Jesus Proclaims His Kingship***

John 18:36ff

* ***Worldviews Collide over the Nature of Truth***

John 18:37-38

* ***The Ultimate Irony: The Release of the “son of the Father.”***

John 18:38-40

***The Gospel of John: So that you may believe***

**The Arrest and Trial of Jesus**

**Digging Deeper into John 18**

This week, I want you all to read through the narrative of Jesus’ arrest and trial and read between the lines of the story by using your sanctified imagination. Do your best to get the emotion of what is arguably the most important day in human history.

***Read John 18:1-11***

1. What are your thoughts on why the soldiers fell down? I suggested that Jesus is actually controlling his arrest; why is he doing this?

2. *Read Acts 2:22-24 & 4:27-28*. This is a powerful passage on God’s sovereign plan for His son to be crucified (see John 18:11). Discuss that age old question of God’s sovereignty and mankind being responsible for their own actions (see especially Acts 4:27. Also, Peter seems to be telling them to repent for killing Jesus in Acts 2:36-39.

3. The disciples certainly ***didn’t*** ***feel*** like God was in control of this plan, but He was. How do we apply this to the chaos and tragedy that hits our lives? Is it possible that when we see only hard times, we can believe that God is working a plan for our good? A few of you give personal examples.

**Read John 18:15-27 and Luke 22:60-62**

4. This is where you put your sanctified imagination to work. Just hours earlier, Peter said that he would lay down his life for Jesus (see John 13:37-38); but the exact opposite happened. How do you think Jesus rebuking Peter for using the sword affected his courage (see John 18:10-11)? Image how Peter felte when Jesus looked at him after he denied him three times. This is important for when we study John 21 when Jesus is restored.

**Read John 18:28-40**

5. How do we apply to our world today Jesus’ statement about ***The Truth*** compared to Pilate’s skepticism about truth (“what is truth?”)?

6. End today’s study by discussing the deep irony of the insurrectionist’s Barabbas (“son of the Father”) being released to freedom and Jesus (the true Son of the Father) being condemned. Does Barabbas represent us in some way?