

Sermon - John 18:28-40
Standing for Jesus, His Gospel and our Biblical
Convictions

Introduction:

John 18:1-27 contained the following:

1. Jesus' betrayal by Judas and His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.
2. Jesus declaring " I AM" a few times and Peter declaring " I am not" 3 times.
3. Jesus predicted Peter's denial in Matthew 26:34; Mark 14:30-31 & Luke 22:34.
4. Peter trying to "help" Jesus but not grasping Jesus's Kingdom and Purpose.
5. Peter's bold declaration in Matthew 26:33-35 that "even if all fall away or stumble because of You, I will never."
6. Later on in Matthew 26:75, Peter remembers the words of Jesus "Before the rooster crows, you will disown Me three times". He weeps bitterly.
7. And then Peter's glorious restoration by Jesus in John 21:15-18, " Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" Very significant that Jesus asked him 3 times! In a sense, canceling out his denial and giving him another opportunity to get back on track.
8. This same Peter, empowered by The Holy Spirit at Pentecost, boldly proclaims Jesus and about 3000 are saved (Acts 2:14-41). This "unschooled, ordinary" fisherman, who had messed up so badly, given a second chance....! God is not done with you! It's never too late to come back to your original assignment. Peter wept bitterly. He repented. He did mess up on numerous occasions, but God's grace carried him. His grace is sufficient for us every time we fail or fall.

9. The we find Jesus before Annas and Caiaphas the high priest.
10. We pick up from Verse 28 where Jesus is before Pilate and the Chief Priests and Pharisees.

Pilate's 6 questions:

1. "What accusation do you bring against THIS MAN"? V.29)
2. "Are YOU The KING of the Jews"? V.33
3. "What have YOU done"? V.35
4. "Are YOU A King then"? V.37
5. "What is truth"? V.38
6. "Do you therefore want me to release to you The King of the Jews "? V.39

Peoples response:

"Not THIS MAN, but give us Barabbas". V40 - A robber and a murderer.

Pilate asks "what is truth" and then declares that "he finds no fault in Jesus at all". Truth is not just a concept, but A Person. Jesus stated He is Truth. He is Life. He is The Way.

A. What is our response to Jesus and The Gospel in this hostile world?

1 Timothy 4:1-3 (NKJV)

"Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry, [and commanding] to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth."

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NKJV)

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

[2 Timothy 3:10-17 \(NKJV\)](#)

“But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra--what persecutions I endured. And out of [them] all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned [them,] 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

[2 Timothy 4:1-5 \(NKJV\)](#)

“I charge [you] therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season [and] out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to

their own desires, [because] they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn [their] ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

B. What has Jesus called us to?

Matthew 16:24-27 (NKJV) (Repeated in Mark 8:34-35 and Luke 9:23-24).

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”

Matthew 10:32-33 (NKJV)

“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 “But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”

C. What should our response be? What time is it?

- Time to STAND your ground in prayer and spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18).
- Time to keep fighting the good fight (1 Timothy 6:12).
- Time to keep preaching The Word and endure sound doctrine (2 Timothy 4:2; 1 Timothy 1:10; 2 Timothy 4:3; Titus 1:9; Titus 2:1).

- Time to endure hardships and afflictions (Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 12:7; 1 Corinthians 14:12; 2 Timothy 2:10,12).
- Don't give up (Philippians 3:13; Hebrews 12:3,12).
- Finish your race (Acts 20:24).
- Fix your eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2).
- It's harvest time!
- ***John 4:35-35 “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and [then] comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!***

Conclusion:

- We are called to present Jesus, preach Jesus, live for Jesus, stand for Jesus in a world that does not want Jesus but want Barabbas.
- A world where people believe they don't need Jesus. That they are ok.
- Not everyone will accept or receive our message, but we must still deliver this message. We are obligated. We are eager. We are not ashamed.
- **Romans 1:14-16 (NIV)** “I am **obligated** both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. 15 That is why I am so **eager** to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. 16 For I am **not ashamed** of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.”

What time is it? Time to STAND!