

WORKOUT

JOHN 18:1-27

Believe
and
LIVE
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

PONDER

Read all of John chapters 18–19, focusing on 18:1–27.

Ponder the hope of God's sovereignty in His redemptive plan, even while Jesus goes to the cross for our sins.

- Jesus prays in 17:1, "Father, the hour has come." What is the significance of the shift from "my hour has not yet come" (2:4; 7:8; 7:30) to "The hour has come" (12:23; 17:1). What does this reveal about the purpose of Jesus's incarnation and earthly ministry?
- Consider the things in this section that have been previously prophesied, or foretold. Read each pair of parallel passages and meditate on the sovereignty of God in all things.
 - Judas's betrayal: read John 13:21–30 and 18:1–4
 - Jesus's protection of His disciples: read John 17:12 and 18:4–9
 - Jesus's death for His people: read John 11:45–52 and 18:12–14
 - Peter's denial: read John 13:36–38 and John 18:15–18, 25–27
 - How can each of these examples bring hope as you consider Jesus, almighty and all-powerful, sovereignly in control of all things, working out His plan of redemption that has been His purpose since the beginning? (Ephesians 1:3–10)

Ponder all that Christ proclaimed during His earthly ministry (18:19–24).

- Jesus has spoken openly to the world and has only said what was true (18:20, 23). Why do the officers and high priests respond the way they do? (Also consider John 3:19–21; 7:7; 15:18–25.)

PRAY

Pray Holistically

Read and pray Psalm 51.

- Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment (Psalm 51:1–4).

Pray Personally

Read Psalm 32:5 and pray in confession of your sin.

- Name specific ways you have sinned this week and ask the Lord to forgive you.
- Ask the Lord to soften your heart to be grieved over your sin.
- Ask the Lord to bring to light the sins that you aren't even aware of.

PRACTICE

Jesus died for our sins. This week, be aware of the magnitude of and feel the gravity of your own sin.

- Consider your besetting sins (ongoing, consistent battles), temptations to sin, and sins that you may not be aware of. Ask trusted brothers and sisters in Christ what patterns of sin and temptation they have seen in your life.
- Think about these sins in light of John 18:1–27 and Jesus's road to the cross. Do you grieve over your sin?
- Consider the following as examples of ways to cultivate godly grief:
 - Think about sin rightly as a rejection of God.
 - Do not minimize or justify your own sin.
 - Do not soften the way that you think or speak about your own sin. (For example, saying "I've been struggling with ____" rather than "I have sinned.")
 - Meditate on your inability to live in a way that is honoring to the Lord apart from Christ.
 - Do not fall into temptation that believes you can try harder or be better next time. Apart from Christ, you will not seek God and you will not love what is good (Psalm 14:1–3; Psalm 52:1–3; Romans 3:9–18).
 - Consider the cross and the penalty that Jesus paid for your sin.
 - Enemies of the cross set their minds on earthly things (Philippians 3:18–19). Set your mind on the cross and what Jesus has done.