

Jesus' Final Hours
Jesus, the Mob, and the High Priest
John 18:1-27
Sermon Outline

Introduction: We are noisy and busy. Lent is a good time to slow down and quiet down—to let God show us himself in the words and deeds of Jesus.

I) Jesus' courage

A) Jesus and the mob

Frightening scene

Jesus steps up

v. 4: Jesus...came forward

v. 4, 7: Whom are you seeking (2x)

Jesus versus Peter:

ego eimi (2x) versus ouk eimi (2x)

B) Jesus and Annas

Annas' power

Jesus' answer

Courage does not give people what they want to hear but what they need to hear.

v. 23: If what I said is wrong...

C) Some take-aways

Do we love people enough to tell them what they need to hear?

Do we really want to know about Jesus?

II) Jesus' majestic restraint

A) Before the mob

v. 4: I am

The moment passes and he lets them bind and take him

B) Before Annas

Confounding answer

Roughed up and cuffed

III) Jesus' love

v. 8: So, if you seek me, let these men go

A) Double meaning

B) Why the majestic restraint?

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) How noisy and busy is your life? Why is it not more reflective?
- 2) Look up John's description of the purpose of his Gospel in John 20:31 and reflect on the following statement: "Christianity is not essentially about doing something (however worthy). It is about seeing Someone and being changed by what we see. C. S. Lewis was on to something when he said that in heaven "we will not talk about being good, except perhaps as a joke—we will be too busy looking at the Person from whom goodness comes."
- 3) Compare Jesus' "I am he" (vv. 4, 7) to Peter's "I am not" (vv. 17, 25). What does the difference reveal about the quality of Jesus' courage?
- 4) Read Jesus' response to Annas in vv. 20-21. What do you think Jesus was doing by answering the way he did? How did Annas respond? How did his guard respond? Why?
- 5) Courage does not give people what they want to hear. It loves them enough to give them what they need to hear. Where is the love in Jesus' response to Annas and the guard? Reflect on how good you are at telling people what they need to hear as opposed to what they want to hear.
- 6) Reflect on the following: "If we really want to know Jesus, we will never be satisfied (as Annas seemed to be) with sound bytes and second hand information. We will take seriously (even pore over) the whole record of his life and words (the New Testament), and, by extension, the older record upon which Jesus based his life and words (the Old Testament)."
- 7) How did the arresting mob respond to Jesus' self identification (see v. 6)? Why? (Exodus 3:1-15 should help). Why did they recover their composure? What did Jesus then let them do?
- 8) Read vv. 7-8. How is the end of v. 8 a picture of the entire story of John's Gospel, especially the final chapters (the verb translated "let...go" is also translated, "forgive", "remit", "set free")? Reflect on the deep meaning of the end of vs. 8 by putting your name in place of "these men" and spend some time thanking Jesus for what he has done for you.