For This Purpose

John 18-21

Overview

- John 18:1-11: The Arrest
- John 18:12-19:16: The Trials
- John 19:17-37: The Crucifixion
- John 19:38-42: The Burial
- John 20:1-21:25: The Resurrection

The Arrest
John 18:1-11

- Jesus left upper room, went down Kidron valley, into Garden of Gethsamane.
- Around 250,000 lambs being slaughtered in the temple, and the Kidron would be red with blood.
- Imagine Jesus' thoughts as He crossed the Kidron!

The Arrest
John 18:1-11

- Temple officers and an armed Cohort (300-600 men) were sent to arrest Him! Why send 300 armed men to arrest *one unarmed man*?
- John 18:6 *They drew back and fell to the ground!*
- He was a man who walked on water, fed thousands, healed the sick and raised the dead!
- Naturally, they were afraid of Him! What would He do to them?

Jesus Intended His Arrest!

- Disciples were tired. They went to sleep 3 times during His prayer!
- It was dark, and the guards had to use torches.
- The arrest was probably around midnight.
- Yet Jesus forced the disciples to wait in the garden, until He was arrested there.

Jesus Allows His Arrest!

- John 10:17-18: *For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.*
- He *intentionally* waited to be arrested.
- He *willingly* went to be tried, tortured, and crucified.

Jesus Allows His Arrest!

- Matt 26:53: *Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than 12 legions (legion ≈ 5000) of angels?*
- 300 armed men are no match for 1 angel, let alone 60,000!
- He could easily have avoided it!

For This Purpose!

- John 12:27: … *what shall I say "Father, save Me from this hour?" But for this purpose I came to this hour.*
- Leonard Ravenhill (British-American evangelist): *Jesus did not come into the world to make bad men good. He came into the world to make dead men live!*
- You and I were dead, but now, because of Him, we are alive!

The Trials
John 18:12-19:15

- John 18:12-23 - Before Annas, father-in-law of High Priest Caiphas
- John 18:24-27 - Before Sanhedrin, including High Priest Caiphas
- John 18:28-18:37 - Before Pilate
- Luke 23:6-12 - Before Herod
- John 18:38-19:16 - Before Pilate again.
- In John the two Pilate trials are consecutive. Breaking up at verse 37 to correspond with the Herod trial in Luke is just a guess.

Why did the Jewish Rulers Hate Him?

- He confronted them many times, e.g. John 8:44 *You are of your father the devil …*
- He exposed their hypocrisy, e.g. Mark 7:11 (Corban)
- He threatened their corruption, e.g. John 2:12-18. They forced people to buy only their animals for sacrifice, at exorbitant prices.
- He frightened them with His power. In John 11:47 after Lazarus' resurrection, they say *"What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs"*

But What Was The Charge?

- Matthew 26:63: *Tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God.*
- In Matthew 26:64 Jesus affirms that He is, and applies 2 Messianic prophecies, Ps 110:1 *The Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power* and Dan 7:13 *with the clouds of heaven One like the Son of Man was coming.*
- In Matthew 26:65 Annas tears his robe and says *What further need do we have of witnesses … you have now heard the blasphemy!*

Why is He hated today?

- He confronts our sin.
- He exposes our hypocrisy.
- He threatens our security.
- We disbelieve His power.
- We disbelieve His claim on our lives.
- We disbelieve His Word.

What is He accused of Today?

- Narrow exclusivism, e.g. John 14:6 *I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.*
- Acts 4:12 *And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved*
- Unloving … how could a loving God send people to hell?
- Unfairness … I am a good person. I have never killed anyone.

The Charge of Blasphemy

- A Problem: *Jus Gladii … The Right of the Sword.* Legal authority in Roman occupied Israel to condemn a man to death only belonged to the Romans … the Jews could not kill Him.
- Another problem: Blasphemy was not a crime that Rome recognized! So in John 19:4 Pilate says *I find no guilt in Him*.
- In fact Pilate says he finds no guilt in Him 3 times, in John 18:38, 19:4 and again in 19:6!

Who was Really Guilty?

- John 19:12: *If you release this Man, you are no friend of Ceaser!* They force Pilate by accusing Jesus of insurrection, a crime recognized by Rome!
- Pilate asks in John 19:15: *Shall I crucify your King?*
- Chief priests answered in John 19:15: *We have no king but Ceaser!* The Chief Priests are themselves guilty of idolatry, stating that Ceaser, not God, is their King!
- Pilate delivers Him to be crucified.

Was Jesus Guilty?

- Not for any of sin He committed!
- His so-called blasphemy was simply stating what was true … He is the Son of God!
- But yes, He was guilty! He took on my sin! And yours! That included Blasphemy, Murder, Idolatry, Adultery, and every horrible thing each of us has done or thought of!

The Crucifixion
Predicted Hundreds of years ago!
John 19:17-37

- John 19:18, Is 53:9: He was crucified with 2 criminals and was assigned to be thrown into the grave for criminals.
- John 19:23-24, Ps 22:18: They gamble for His clothing.
- Luke 22:35, Ps 22:8: They taunt Him, saying let God rescue Him.
- But by God's Grace, He died … for me, for you!

The Crucifixion
What Really Killed Jesus?

- What really killed Jesus?
- Was it the horrible beating and torture He suffered?
- Those who crucified him thought He died because He was nailed to the cross. Were they right? Did the cross kill Him?

The Crucifixion
What Really Killed Jesus?

- Jesus had no sin nature. His body had no weakness or imperfection. His body could not die no matter what you did to Him, even if you nailed Him to a cross!
- Rom 6:23 *The wages of sin is* death. Only sin could kill Him. The only way He could die is when He took on my sin, and yours.
- It was not the cross which killed Him. It had no power to kill Him.
- He could only die because He took our sin. It was my sin that killed Him. It was your sin that killed Him.

The Crucifixion
Details from Matthew

- Matt 27:45 A great darkness covered the land. God put a curtain on Him at this time. Possibly this was when He was taking the judgment from God for you, for me.
- Matt 27:46: He cries out to God who has forsaken Him. Notice … this is the only time He refers to God as *God* and not *Father*. This time, God was His Judge!
- Matt 27:51: The veil was torn. The way to God was opened through the death of Christ!
- Matt 27:52: Many previously dead saints were raised!
- Matt 27:54: The earthquake, and the Roman soldier's realization that He is the Son of God.

The Burial
John 19:38-42

- Jesus was expected to be thrown into a common grave for criminals. But God had other plans.
- Nicodemus and Joseph were influential Jews.
- Joseph got permission from Pilate to take down the body of Jesus for burial.
- They took down the body, embalmed it and buried it with honor in a tomb belonging to Joseph.
- This was predicted in Isaiah 53:9, 700 years earlier!

The Burial

- John18:38-42, Is 53:9: He was buried in a rich man's tomb and a huge stone was rolled over the entrance
- Matt 27: 62-66 The Pharisees suspected the disciples may try to steal the body.
- So they setup an armed troupe to guard the tomb.
- They also set a seal to secure it. If the seal was broken, they would know that an attempt was made to steal the body.

Resurrection!
Matthew 28:2-4

- Another severe earthquake occurred.
- An angel of the Lord rolled away the stone, thereby breaking the seal.
- The guards shook with fear, and became like dead men (froze)!

The Resurrection!
John 20:1-21:25

- John 20:1-10: Mary Magdalene and Mary mother of Joses discover the empty tomb!
- John 20:11-21:25: Appearances to Mary Magdalene, Disciples at various times, to Thomas, to Peter.
- The disciples grief turned to joy, as He predicted in John 16:19-22!
- The resurrection fired up the disciples, and the church was born!

The Resurrection!
John 20:1-21:25

- But the resurrection had also fired up Jesus!
- Previously, He called His disciples His servants.
- John 12:26 *If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.*
- And also slaves.
- John 15:20 *Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you …*

The Resurrection!
John 20:1-21:25

- Now for the first time He calls them My brethren!
- John 20:17 *Jesus *said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"*
- Matt 28:10 *Then Jesus *said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me."*

The Resurrection!
John 20:1-21:25

- How happy parents are to welcome a newborn child into the family!
- Lord Jesus was super excited to welcome the disciples into His family! They are now His brethren!
- God is the Father of Christ, and also Father of the brethren!
- We have a new nature, in the likeness of our Father!
- Eph 4:24 *and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

The Resurrection!
John 20:1-21:25

- Those timid disciples underwent a dramatic change, they became bold, confident witnesses of the risen Lord.
- Most were martyred for their belief. Why would a man die for a lie?
- Paul went from being a persecutor of the church to a fervent evangelist.
- 1 Cor 15:6 *After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now*
- He appeared to more than 500 people at one time, most of whom were alive at the time of Paul's writing.

Debunk The Resurrection!

- 1 Cor 15:14 *and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, your faith also is in vain.*
- The Gospel and the Church stands, or falls, by the Resurrection!
- Matt 28:11-15: Chief Priests spread the story that the resurrection was a Deception!
- The chief priests instruct the soldiers in Matt 28:13 … "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.'
- In spite of stone, seal, and soldiers!

Watergate and the Resurrection!
Chuck Colson: Loving God

- June 17 1972: A group of ex-CIA agents broke into the Democratic National Committee offices and planted electronic bugs.
- March 21 1973: The most powerful man on earth, President Nixon, and his lawyers including Chuck Colson tried to cover it up paying $1M in bribes.
- April 6, 1973: The coverup collapses under John Dean's testimony!
- The coverup lasted less than a month!

Watergate and the Resurrection!
Chuck Colson: Loving God

- A deception by the most powerful people on earth!
- Who work for the most powerful man on the earth!
- In the most powerful nation on the earth!
- Lasted for less than 1 month!
- The conspirators, including Chuck Colson were indicted.
- No one believes the Watergate coverup today!

Watergate and the Resurrection!
Chuck Colson: Loving God

- So then how does a “deception” by the most fearful and timid disciples
- From the pathetic subject nation, Israel
- Of the most powerful ruling nation on earth, Rome
- Overcome an armed guard
- Roll away a huge stone
- Steal the body
- And last for over 2000 years???
- Countless millions still believe in the Resurrection!

The Resurrection

- For over 2000 years, the Lord's enemies have been trying to debunk the Resurrection!
- They know that if the Resurrection collapses, Christianity collapses.
- Frank Morrison tried to debunk the Resurrection
- And ended up defending it in *Who Moved the Stone?*

Summary

- The Arrest – A Fake Arrest on Fake Charges.
- The Trials – A series of Fake Trials.
- The Crucifixion – A Real Death. Nothing fake about His torture and death!
- The Burial – A Real Burial in a cave tomb, closed by a massive stone, sealed with a Roman seal, and guarded by an armed guard. Nothing fake here.
- The Resurrection – A Real Resurrection. Nothing fake about His resurrection!

He is Risen!!

