



SERIES: John Believe

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Scripture: John 18:12-14

TITLE: How Jesus Responded to Injustice

In this world, there are very few things we control. And in a divine sense, there is really not much at all we control. That is except our response to the events of our lives. Jesus is God and faced betrayal, humiliation, torture, and more at the hands of the people He ultimately had authority over. Yet, His response is unlike anyone I've ever met or will meet.

Today, we will begin a new chapter in our journey with Jesus. Today we begin to walk with Him through his trial. His response to injustice is unprecedented. How so?

Listen to what John records in John 18:12-14.

So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

I still can't believe what we're reading. Jesus has done nothing wrong but heals the sick and offers forgiveness of sins. And yet, we've witnessed His betrayal. And now, He's arrested. But notice it wasn't just an arrest. It says in verse 12 that they bound Him. Now, this binding was probably standard, like cops will handcuff a perpetrator now. But I think we should think back to the sacrificial lambs before their slaughter, like in Psalm 118 or even the offering of Isaac on the altar (Genesis 22:9).

Then in verse 13 it tells that Jesus was brought to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas. Much like today, politics are real. And even those who hold the title are not really in charge. Yes, Caiaphas was the high priest that year and would be so for 18 years. So though Caiaphas would be one of the longest-reigning high priests of the first century, his father-in-law Annas was likely the one in charge.

Today, in sports, teams may have head coaches, but trust me, the general managers and owners are the real players. The same is true here. Annas was upset with Jesus. He had a hatred for Jesus because Jesus disrupted his business operations by cleansing the temple twice. This may be why Jesus was brought before him—before Caiaphas.

And, in case we forget about Caiaphas, John reminds us that he was the one who declared it's better that one man die than the whole nation perish. Though he meant something far different, his words were true.

My encouragement for you today is to look to Jesus as the model for responding to injustice in your life. Jesus is God and could have squashed every person in this process. But He didn't. He remained humble and allowed the events to play out exactly as they needed to.

In Luke 18, we are reminded that God is a patient God. He withholds his wrath till the very last person is saved. "Vengeance is mine declares the Lord" (Romans 12:19). Knowing this we can wait on Him. We can live like Him. So let's do so today.