

The Gospel of John SS ~ March 9, 2008

John 18:12-27

I. How to Interpret Narratives: A Crash Course

A. History and Theology as a Story

1. Ask the common “Journalist” questions: *Who?, What?, When?, Where?, Why?, and How?*

2. Determine what the overall meaning of the entire story is.

3. Determine the meaning of individual episodes and their relationship to the development of the whole.

4. Determine the meaning of a series of smaller stories and what is the author trying to tell the reader by connecting them together.

5. Uphold authorial intent even in narrative texts. Stories, just as the epistles, have an implied reader who must interpret the text in submission to the author’s intended meaning.

B. Elements of Narrative Bible Study

1. Author/Narrator

2. Point of View

3. “Story Time”

4. Plot

5. Characters (characterization)

6. Discourse/Dialogue

7. Setting

8. Authorial commentary

9. Implied Reader

II. John 18:12-27 ~ The Eve of the Crucifixion

A. 18:12-14 – Jesus Taken Away

1. Why does John include the questioning of Annas in his telling of Jesus’ trial?

2. What is the purpose of John’s authorial note in 18:14 concerning the identity of Caiaphas and what he had spoken?

B. 18:15-18 – Peter’s First Denial

1. Who is the “another disciple”?

2. What is the nature of the servant girl’s question in asking if Peter was also a disciple of Jesus?

3. For what reason does Peter initially deny Christ?

4. What elements of authorial detail can you find in this passage? What is the significance of inserting these elements into the story?

5. Is there any theological significance to John's recounting of Peter's placement with the "servants and officers" warming themselves? If so, then what part does it play in unfolding this scene?

C. 18:19-24 – The Questioning of Jesus

1. From the following discussion, what is the perceived concern behind the high priest's interrogation with respect to Jesus' disciples and teaching?

2. In Jesus' reply in 18:20, especially in light of "I have spoken openly to the world," what is the essence of his answer?

3. Jesus' response in 18:21 merited a blow to the face by a nearby officer. What is contained in his reply that reveals the nature of this trial (*keep in mind even how contemporary trials progressively unfold)?

D. 18:25-27 – Peter's Second and Third Denial

1. In what ways are the questions posed to Peter in 18:17 and 18:25 similar? What type of answer do both of them seem to expect from Peter?

2. What would appear to be the motivation behind Peter's third denial?

E. Inner-Textuality

1. What is John trying to communicate to his readers by interweaving the brief episodes of Jesus' trial and Peter's denials?

2. What does John show us regarding the characterization of Peter by looking at 18:1-11 in relation to 18:12-27?

3. In John's gospel, what's the connection between 18:1-27 and 13:38 and 10:17-18?

F. Application

1. We must believe in Jesus Christ for eternal life because he is who he says he is. Christ is the only person who will never fail us (cf. Heb 13:5-6).

2. Sometimes we will be placed into hard situations, whether physical persecutions or public embarrassments, but we must not deny or be ashamed of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (cf. Mark 8:34-38).

3. When we sin, even one so terrible as Peter's, we know that there is still hope for us in Christ. We can find salvation and forgiveness in the finished, redemptive work of Jesus Christ.