

**Knowing Jesus as Rejected**  
**John 18 Discussion Questions**  
5/14/17

1. The first person in John 18 who rejects Jesus is Judas, who is an insider. Jesus chose Judas as a disciple and Jesus knew he would betray him (**see John 6:70 and 13:27**). Why do you think Jesus chose Judas and allowed Judas to remain with Him knowing that Judas would betray Him?
2. Another person who rejects Jesus is Peter, who is also an insider. Early in the chapter, Peter is ready to fight for Jesus (**v.10**). Later in the chapter Peter denies knowing Jesus (**vv.17, 25, &27**). Why do you think we see this change in Peter?
3. What are some of the key similarities and differences between Peter and Judas? Many people are “insiders” like Peter and Judas as they grow up in the church and in Christian families. How can a person be confident he/she is following the path of Peter and not Judas?
4. The third type of rejection is the religious leadership who is strongly opposed to Jesus (**v.31**). Jesus preached and practiced a message of peace. Why do you think there has always been such hostility toward Him?
5. The fourth type of rejection is Pilate who is indifferent (**v.38**). If Pilate thinks Jesus is innocent, why does he allow Him to be killed? Why is neutrality toward Jesus no different than opposition to Jesus?
6. Have you known someone who has rejected Jesus similar to Judas/Peter? Religious Leadership? Pilate? Does one of the groups seem to be quicker to repent and go back to Christ? Does one of these groups seem to be more unlikely to repent and go back to Christ? Should we respond differently to these different groups of people?
7. Jesus responds to the rejection by willingly experiencing it (**v.4**). In the past, we have seen Jesus elude the authorities before they could arrest or kill him. Why does he “come forward” at this point?
8. Jesus also responds by speaking the truth confidently (**vv.5-6**). Why do the soldiers and crowds draw back and fall to the ground? What do we learn from this?
9. Third, Jesus protects His followers (**vv.8-9**). Why do the authorities allow Jesus to make demands of them? What do we learn from this?
10. Jesus also responds by practicing what He preaches. He tells Peter to put away his sword and Luke tells us Jesus heals the man’s ear (**Luke 22:51**). What are other ways Jesus practices what He preaches throughout His ministry? What do we learn from this?
11. Finally, we learn that God the Father also rejects Jesus (**v.11**). What is the “cup” the Father has given Jesus to drink? Why might someone want to ignore or de-emphasize the Father’s role in His Son’s death? Why should we emphasize the Father’s role in His Son’s death?
12. For those people who don’t trust in Christ, do you think they have a more difficult time recognizing their own rejection of God or believing in God’s rejection of His Son? Have you known someone who had a difficult time believing in either of these truths?