



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

John 18:25-32 Study Hints for Discussion

[Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further](#) are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [Class Preparation Guide](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

1. Who was the last person to ask Peter if he were a disciple of Jesus? Why did he think Peter might be a disciple of Jesus?

A slave of the high priest who was a relative of Malchus, the slave whose right ear Peter cut off. This slave was also in the garden with his relative when Peter cut off his ear. Peter must have looked like the one who cut off the ear of Malchus. If Jesus had not healed the ear of Malchus, this slave would no doubt have called for the soldiers to question Peter further.

2. After Annas questioned Jesus, where did he send Jesus? Where did Jesus go after that, and what was this person’s name?

Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Jesus went to the Roman governor, whose name was Pilate, for trial.

3. Why did those seeking Jesus’ murder refuse to enter the headquarters of the Roman governor?

They wanted to avoid ritual defilement to be able to eat the Passover.

4. What did the Roman governor do when the Jewish leaders refused to enter his headquarters? When the governor asked what accusation they were bringing against Jesus, what was their reply?

He went out to them. They did not have an accusation of a specific crime against Jesus, so they only said, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.” [Jesus had only broken their applications and interpretations of the law and their traditions, for Jesus was without sin and never broke the law of God, the moral law, the law of love. Pilate would not put Jesus to death on these religious charges.]

5. What reason did the Jewish leaders give the governor for not judging Jesus themselves according to their law? Why did they say this?

The Jews replied, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death.” They said this because they wanted Jesus to be crucified by the Romans rather than die by stoning, as they later stoned Stephen. This fulfilled how Jesus indicated how He would die.

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Contact: P.O. Box 1052, Edmond, Oklahoma, 73083 and lgp@theiblf.com.