



What Jesus Taught in Secret John 18:12-24

Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing (John 18:20—KJV).

Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret” (John 18:20—NASB).

Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret” (John 18:20—NRSV).

When on trial before the chief priests, Jesus could have called Peter and John, two of His most faithful disciples, to testify on His behalf. They watched His trial from the courtyard. But Jesus had prayed and promised them that the Father and He would protect them so none of His disciples would be arrested or harmed. Jesus kept His promise, so He testified in His own defense. He testified that He had always spoken openly to the world. In the most prominent places, Jesus had given everyone the opportunity to hear everything He taught. John did not repeat everything the other gospel writers recorded, so in Mark 14:56, we learn, “Many gave false testimony against

him, and their testimony did not agree.” Perhaps most importantly for people today, we learn from John that Jesus spoke openly to the world. Everything Jesus taught would benefit everyone in the world, if people believed and lived based on what Jesus taught. Perhaps more importantly, Jesus said that He taught nothing in secret. No ancient secret book or ancient secret society exists that truly tells what Jesus taught in secret, for Jesus never taught anything in secret. Jesus did explain His parables to His disciples, for they had “ears to hear” (an open mind and heart to learn the truth). As Jesus told Pilate in John 18:37, “Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Jesus’ disciples still listen to His voice as recorded in the Bible, for His first disciples wrote everything the Holy Spirit inspired them to remember.

Thinking Further

1. Why do you think both Roman soldiers and temple police were sent to arrest of Jesus?
2. Who were the two priests who tried Jesus? Who prophesied about Jesus? What did he prophesy? Was his prophecy true? How do you know?
3. Who do you think was the “another disciple”? Give a reason for your answer. Who did he know that enabled him to stay close to Jesus?
4. How did Jesus speak in the world? What did He say in secret? Why is knowing this important to believers in Jesus?
5. What did Jesus testify to that was wrong that led the Him to be struck?

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