

# ***Bible Study***

## ***Gods Word in Focus***



**Week Twenty Six**

**Gospel of John**

***John 18: 1-40***

# **"Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given me? "**

**John 18:1-11**

After the last supper meal, Jesus descends with his disciples into the Kidron valley and crosses over to the garden of Gethsemane, which means "olive press".

Between the Kidron valley stands the Temple Mount on one side and the Mount of Olives. Many olive groves and private gardens dotted this Mount which overlooks the great Temple built by Herod.

Some wealthy friend undoubtedly gave Jesus free access to this private garden where Jesus often came to pray. Jesus knew that this would be his last night before his death.

He came to pray at this place with the full knowledge that Judas would soon hand him over to his enemies.

# **"It was expedient that one man should die for the people"**

**John 18:12-27**

After his arrest Jesus was first led to Annas rather than to Caiaphas the high priest. Annas had bribed his way into the office of high priest for several years and succeeded in getting his sons to be high priests in their turn.

Now his son-in-law, Caiaphas, held the position, no doubt because of Annas' great power and influence with politics and religion. It was Jewish belief that when the high priest asked for God's counsel for the nation, God spoke through him.

What dramatic irony that Caiaphas had prophesied that Jesus must die for the nation (see John 11:51).

# Jesus answered Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world"

John 18:28-40

On what basis was Jesus charged with a crime deserving death? The religious leaders charged Jesus with blasphemy because he called himself the Son of God. But since they did not have the legal power to put him to death, they brought him to the Roman authorities to have him tried and executed.

The charge they brought before Pilate, however, was political rather than religious.

Luke tells us that three false accusations were leveled against Jesus (Luke 23:1-2):

First, that Jesus agitated sedition.

Second, they said that he encouraged people to not pay taxes to Caesar.

And third, he assumed the title king. In so many words they falsely accused him of rebellion and insurrection.

John goes further than the other gospel writers to affirm Jesus' claim to kingship.