



# Morningside Church

## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title: Deity on Display**

**Date: March 8, 2026**

**Scripture Text: John 18:1-40**

**Notes:**

It is hard at times for our circumstances not to influence our attitude. How our day is going may affect how we respond to others. Sometimes, if we are having a bad day, we may be quick to snap at someone else. The night before Jesus' crucifixion is waning fast. He spent extended time with His disciples preparing them for His departure in John 14-16. He spent some one-on-one time with His heavenly Father in John 17, praying for Himself, His disciples, and future believers like us. Now events start to happen quickly. But regardless of His circumstances, how unjustly He is treated, Jesus shows us the godly response and a trust in His heavenly Father that all will happen according to His plan. Let's take a look at Jesus' deity on display.

**I. Meekness to the Betrayer of Christ (John 18:1-3)**

Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane. By this point, Jesus had already petitioned His heavenly Father that "if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." ([Matt. 26:39](#)). It was not God's will that the cup pass from Jesus. He was resigned to do the will of the Father. As the soldiers and officers arrive, Jesus was not in hiding but in plain sight. Judas knew where He'd be because He had met there often with His disciples.

- Knowing that Judas would be the one to betray Him. What does it say about Jesus that He washed Judas' feet at the last supper and allowed Judas to betray Him with a kiss?
- If you had been in Jesus' place, how would you have responded to Judas?
- How is our relationship with Jesus reflected in how we respond to others?

**II. Protection for the Disciples of Christ (John 18:4-9)**

Jesus accepted God's will for Him and *leans into* being obedient. He asks the soldiers who they seek and they say Jesus the Nazarene. He boldly tells them twice He is who they are looking for. He even asked that His disciples be allowed to go their way.

- What does it show about Jesus' commitment to obeying His heavenly Father in that He asked the soldiers who they were looking for and boldly let them know He was that guy?
- What does it show about Jesus that in the midst of being betrayed and falsely accused, He was concerned for the safety of His disciples?
- How does Jesus still look out for the well-being of His disciples (us) today?



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### **III. Mercy and Forgiveness to the Denyer of Christ ([John 18:10-11](#), [15-18](#), [25-27](#))**

After being betrayed by Judas, Jesus was arrested and taken for questioning. Peter awaits in the courtyard to see what would happen to Jesus. While He waits, he is confronted three times and asked was he a disciple of Jesus. Each time Peter denies it.

- In [John 21:15-17](#), after His resurrection, Jesus engages Peter, telling him to “tend” His sheep. Even though Peter had denied Him, Jesus forgave him and still had work for him to do. What does that say about Jesus’ attitude toward Peter?
- What are examples when we may fail Jesus?
- Based on how Jesus responded to Peter’s failure, how does He respond to our failures?
- Why is it important for us to ‘get back on the horse’ when we fail Jesus?

### **IV. Gentleness to the Accusers of Christ ([John 18:12-14](#))**

Jesus is brought before Annas (previous high priest and father-in-law of the current high priest) and Caiaphas (current high priest). Plans for having Jesus killed by the religious leaders had been simmering for a while and now was their chance. The verdict was guilty. Now they needed a case.

- Jesus responds to the unlawful and false accusations with gentleness ([vss. 20-21](#)). What are examples of situations we might be in that we can reflect Jesus by responding with gentleness instead of defensively, or out of anger.
- How can responding to others with patience and gentleness demonstrate our trust in God?

### **V. Truthfulness to the Politically Correct ([John 18:28-40](#))**

The religious leadership bring Jesus before Pilate, governor of Judea. He would have to agree with the Jewish leadership that Jesus deserved to die for an execution to take place. Pilate could find nothing that Jesus had done worthy of death. Yet his desire to please people over applying justice led him to agree to Jesus’ crucifixion.

- How would you describe Pilate?
- How can being more concerned about what people think rather than what God thinks get us off track?
- God’s word is truth. Truth is eternal. Describe how the truth of God’s word transcends the changes of political and cultural ideologies so prevalent today?
- Truth is that God love you! Who can you share the love of God with this week?