

When Things Seem Out Of Control
Text: John 18:12-27
March 12, 2022

Big Idea: Jesus is sovereign even when things seem out of control; you must believe in Him.

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) How does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

Question #3 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What are the principles, commands or promises given?

- a) What is the overall theme of the text?
- b) Does the passage include any promise from God? If so, what?

Question #4 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is the application?

- a) What is one specific way I can live by these truths, or trust in these promises today?
- b) What is the next step that I need to take to see this happen?

Question #5

- a) Why is it a struggle to trust in God's sovereignty when things seem out of control?
- b) What area(s) do you struggle trusting in Him the most? Why those ones?
- c) What means of grace has God given us to help build our faith and trust in Him in those times?
- d) What is a next step you can take this week with these means, when you are tempted with unbelief?

When things seem out of control, you must believe that Jesus is sovereign...

Point 1: Over All EVIL: REST in Him (vv. 12-14, 19-24)

Key Question: Evil is no match for God's sovereignty. Will you rest in Him?

Question #6

- a) **Rd. John 11: 47-48:** Why did the Jewish leaders want to put Jesus to death?
- b) **Rd vv. 12-14:** How was God showing His sovereignty through Caiaphas?
- c) How should God's work through Caiaphas strengthen us in faith in this season?
- d) Share a few examples of how you have seen God at work in advancing His kingdom in spite of the evil in the world around us.
- e) Spend time in prayer as a group: i) Pray for our leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-4) ii) Thank Jesus for His sovereignty over them (Isaiah 46:9-11) iii) Ask Him for a greater work in advancing His kingdom for His glory here around the world (Matt. 16:18).

Question #7

- a) What were the 3 steps Scripture gives us of how we can find our rest in God, no matter what is happening around us or how we feel?
- b) Which of these do you find it most difficult to do? Why?
- c) What are some steps you can take this week to incorporate these steps into your life more consistently? Ask your small group to hold you accountable in this.

Point 2: Over Your **FAILURE: RETURN** to Him (vv. 15-18, 25-27)

Question: In Jesus, your failure never has the last word. Will you return to Him?

Question #8

- a) Where were Peter and John while Jesus was being interrogated by Annas?
- b) What does the word “denied” mean in vv. 25 & 27? How many times did Peter do this to Jesus?
- c) What situation(s) are you most tempted to deny Jesus in? Why those ones?
- d) What is it you really want in those situations that leads you to do that?
- e) Find promises that you have been given through the gospel that directly address those areas.
- f) Pray for one another specifically for these areas.

Question #9

- a) **Rd. Lk 22:61-62.** How did Peter respond after He heard the rooster crow?
- b) **Rd. Jhn 13:36-38.** Although this is a tough word for Peter, how is it encouraging for him/us?
- c) Where are you most tempted to give your failure the final say?
- d) How does faith in God’s sovereignty through the gospel overcome our despair, discouragement and feelings of having blown it (again) before Christ?
- e) What does it practically look like to live in gospel restoration and not condemnation?

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group/in accountability in prayer...

- a) REVERENCE before God: Jesus, you are the sovereign Lord who _____.
- b) HUMILITY before God: Confess & repent of your failure to follow Christ at all times, and cast your anxiety on Him.
- c) THANKSGIVING to God: Thank Jesus for His sovereignty and the rest and restoration He gives us through the gospel
- d) SUPPLICATION to God: Ask the Lord for i) An increasing faith in His sovereignty ii) For Jesus to build His kingdom and defeat evil iii) To help you quickly return to Him through humility and repentance that leads to restoration and joy in Him.

Memory Verse:

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”-Matthew 11:28

