

## The Continued Mercies of Christ

John 18:1-32

**The Courage of Christ (John 18:1-4)** Jesus knew that His purpose was to die for the sins of all who would believe upon Him. The definition of courage is to be scared, yet to do it anyway because it is right. According to Isaiah 53:10, it was God's will to sacrifice His son so that we would be healed from our sin. If Jesus was courageous enough to die for us, may we be courageous enough to live for Him.

**The Commanding Power of Christ (John 18:5-6)** Jesus displays his power in verse 6 in which when Jesus spoke of being the person they were looking for, they fell to the ground. This is just one example of many, in the book of John in which Christ displays His power. We either believe that He is all powerful or not powerful at all. I'm reminded of Matthew 28:18 ***"And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."*** And in Philippians 2:10-11 ***"so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*** Jesus had commanding power then to restrain himself, later to resurrect himself, and now to redeem sinners and resurrect us!

**The Constant Love of Christ (John 18:7-9)** This love that Jesus has for His disciples reminds us of John 10:28 ***"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."*** We would refer to this doctrine in which Jesus keeps those who have truly placed faith in Him as "Perseverance of the Saints" or as Baptist would say, "Once saved always saved." That's why Baptist don't like daylight savings time, once saved always saved! Jesus loves you enough to die for you, save you, and protect you for eternity. Pastor, what about those who later in life deny Christ? Refer to Luke 8:4-15, the Sower and the Seed. This is an example of people who were warm towards the gospel, but never truly placed all their faith into Christ. Christ + Something Else = Nothing, Christ Alone = Everything for God. If you are His, you will have affections for Christ, especially as we enter dark days ahead.

**The Calmness of Christ (John 18:10-14)** There is nothing calming about swords, ears being chopped off, and arrest being made to an innocent man. Christ was calm for you and I. We can be calm in chaos, for He is our strength!

**The Continued Rejection of Christ (John 18:15-27)** We have all rejected Jesus in one form or fashion. I believe prayer, the power of the Holy Spirit, and purposeful accountability keep us on track. I shared with the kids and youth at the fall festival what it looks like to be separated from other believers. (Coals in the fire example.) May we bond together, encourage one another, commit to live for Christ, not rejecting Him with our lives and actions, but glorifying Him with everything we do!

**The Commitment of Christ (John 18:28-32)** Even after Jesus was rejected by Judas, Peter, and His own people, the Jews, Jesus continued His commitment for an undeserving, unworthy people. He did this so that the unrighteous would become righteous in Christ. He did this so that the lowly would be lifted up, and so that the loser would be loved!

Allow me to read to you Lamentations 3:21-25, this is a great reminder of the continuing mercies of Jesus Christ: ***“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.”*** Never forget what He did on the cross for you! We did not deserve the love that He has shown and the love that continues to show today!