

# **“Betrayal, Rejection, and Refusal of Jesus”**

## **John 18:1-5**

### Introduction

- I. It is hard to believe, but even the kindest and most generous people have those that will mistreat them.
- II. The Lord knew firsthand the terrible feeling of betrayal and rejection.

### Discussion

- I. The betrayal of Judas
  - A. Unfortunately, Judas had an affection for money (John 12:4-8).
  - B. This led to Judas betraying the Lord for thirty pieces of silver (Matt. 26:14-16).
  - C. Jesus was betrayed with a kiss (John 18:5).
  - D. How much will it take for people to betray the Lord today (Mark 8:36-37)?
- II. The rejection of Peter
  - A. Originally, Peter had indicated that he would never reject the Lord (John 13:36-38; cf. John 6:53-69).
  - B. When Jesus was confronted in the garden, Peter was ready to defend the Lord (John 18:10-11).
  - C. Sadly, Peter eventually rejected the Lord three times (John 18:15-18, 25-27).
    1. When he had finished rejecting the Lord, he became very penitent and emotional (Matt. 26:75).
    2. Due to his repentance and newly fortified faith, Jesus forgave and knew that Peter would do great things (John 21:15-19).
  - D. People will turn against Jesus from time to time, but if we come back to Him, He will forgive (Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10; 2:1-2).
- III. The refusal of Caiaphas
  - A. There was an attempt to do away with Jesus via false witnesses (Matt. 26:57-60).
  - B. Caiaphas wanted Jesus to be removed from existence (Matt. 26:61-66; 27:1-2).
  - C. There are people today who want to remove every thing about Jesus (schools, governments, etc.).
  - D. We must never allow the removal of the Lord and His Word (1 Cor. 9:16; 2 Tim. 4:2).

### Conclusion

- I. Let it never be said that the church of Christ betrays, rejects, or refuses the Lord.
- II. He has not given up on us, and we should not give up on Him (Heb. 13:5).