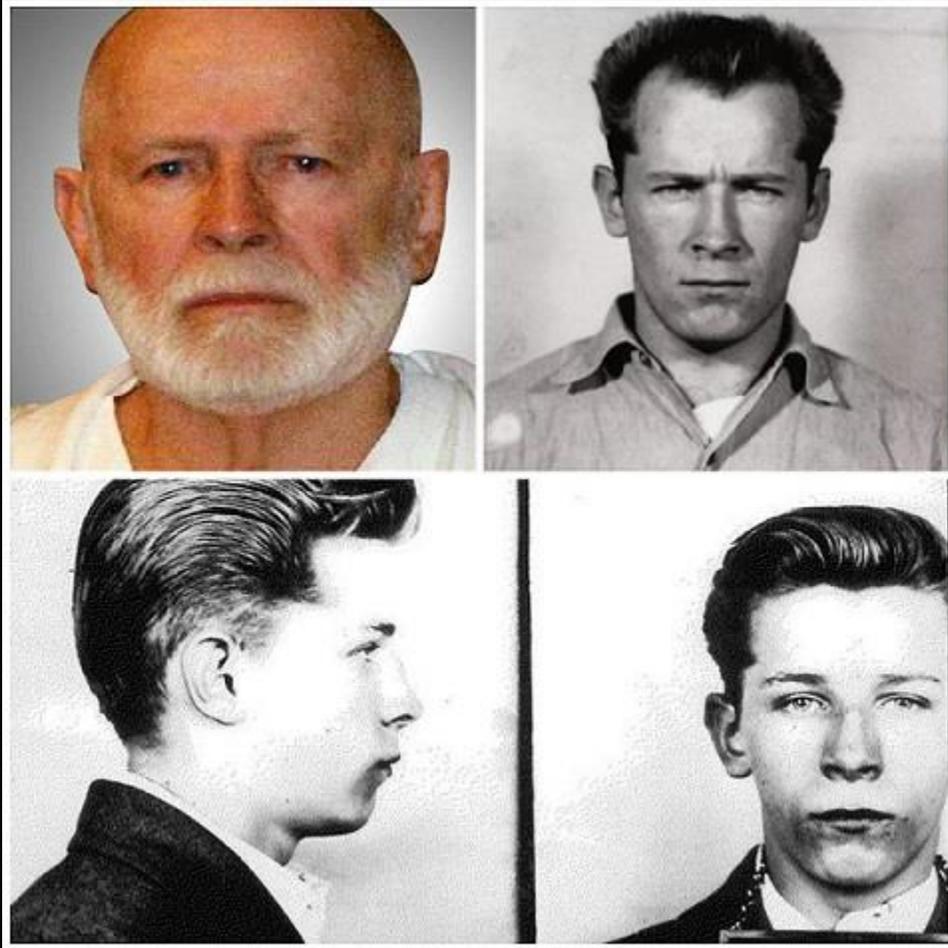


John 18 Introduction

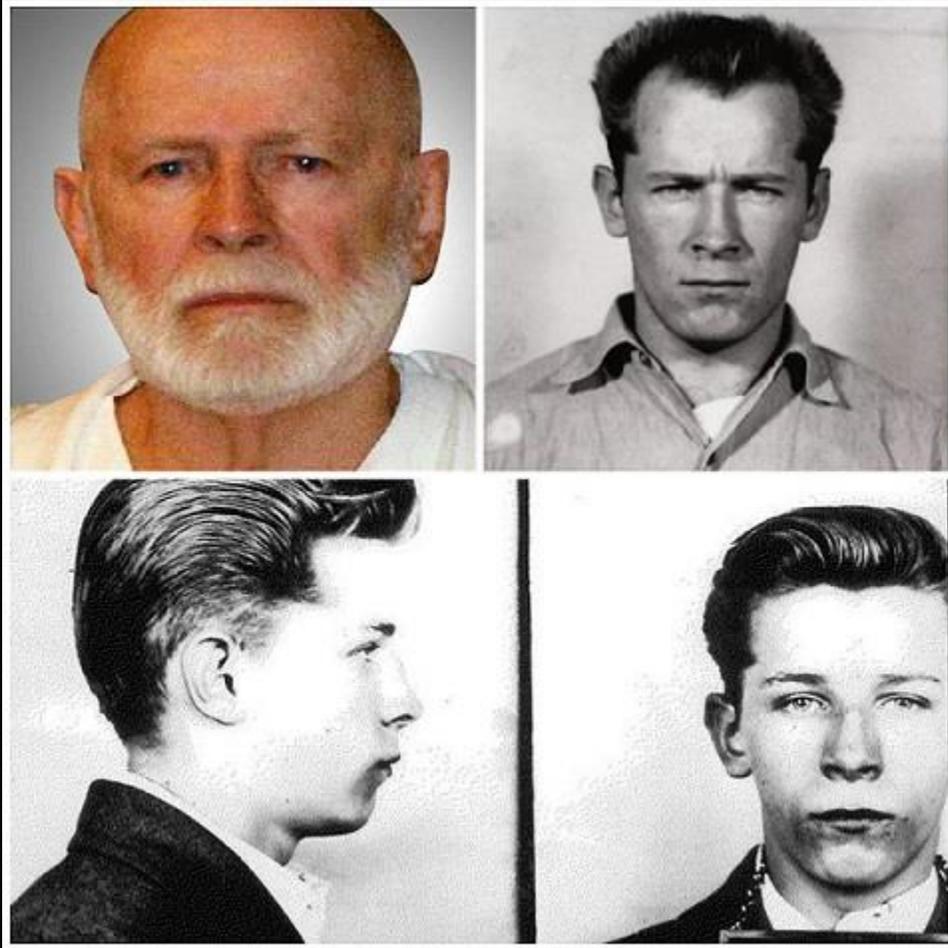
John 18 Introduction



- James “Whitey” Bulger was a lifelong criminal.
- For decades he was a major Boston crime boss.
- His life has been recorded in books, in documentary form and in a movie, *Black Mass*, starring Johnny Depp.

Photo from Casino.org – See Notes at the end.

John 18 Introduction



- Toward the end of his life, he spent 16 years running from the law.
- Some people will go to enormous lengths to avoid arrest – but not Jesus.

Photo from Casino.org – See Notes at the end.

John 18 Introduction

- In this chapter we will see the calm submission of Christ to his captors.
- He willingly, even intentionally, goes to trial.
- Betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter and condemned by the crowd, he will finally stand before Pilate.

John 18 Introduction

- Pontius Pilate the Roman governor was the only one with legal authority to send Christ to the cross.
- After examining him he declared, “I find no guilt in him,” and wanted to release him.
- Instead of Jesus, the crowds will demand that the robber Barabbas be set free.

John 18 Key Verse

John 18 Key Verse

- **John 18:36** (ESV)

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

John 18 Outline

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1. Betrayal and Arrest 18:1-11
2. Annas the High Priest 18:12-14
3. Peter's First Denial 18:15-18
4. Annas Questions Jesus 18:19-24
5. More Denials by Peter 18:25-27
6. Pilate and the Crowd 18:28-32
7. Jesus, Pilate & Barabbas 18:33-40

1. Betrayal and Arrest 18:1-11

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1. Betrayal and Arrest 18:1-11

Garden of
Gethsemane ²



1. Betrayal and Arrest 18:1-11

- 18:3 All of these people come to get Jesus.
- The word used for "a band" of soldiers would usually number in the hundreds.
- So how does Jesus respond?

1. Betrayal and Arrest 18:1-11

- 18:4-8 He willingly turns himself in, though he is completely innocent.
- Jesus is in complete control of the situation.

1. Betrayal and Arrest 18:1-11

- 18:5, 6, 8 His identifying words, “I am he,” are literally “I am” and might be translated as such.
- John may be pointing back to the “I Am” statements of Christ, especially given the response of the mob.

1. Betrayal and Arrest 18:1-11

- 18:9 This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.”

- See John 17:12 (ESV), as Jesus prayed,

While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

1. Betrayal and Arrest 18:1-11

- 18:7-11 Jesus went to the cross *willingly*.
- We might even say *intentionally*.
- It was part of God's plan; it is also an example for us.
- Should our faith ever get us into trouble, we need not avoid that trouble at all costs.
- We follow Jesus, not men like Whitey Bulger.

2. Annas the High Priest 18:12-14

2. Annas the High Priest 18:12-14

- The Romans had appointed **Caiaphas** to replace **Annas**, his father-in-law, as high priest.
- The Jews, however, considered the high priest a lifetime appointment.
- Annas continued to have some respect from the people while not having the official position.

3. Peter's First Denial 18:15-18

3. Peter's First Denial 18:15-18

- 18:15-16 another disciple, that disciple, the other disciple – This is probably John our author.
- John is clearly the “other disciple” in John 20.
- He will also be present all the way to the cross as “the disciple Jesus loved.”
- If he was “known to the high priest” this would easily explain why he seems more courageous than Peter.

3. Peter's First Denial 18:15-18

- Remember **John 13:36-38**,

³⁶ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward."

³⁷ Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." ³⁸ Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times."

3. Peter's First Denial 18:15-18

- Peter's problem, of course was overconfidence.
- He wasn't as committed as he thought.
- He later did in fact give his life for Christ.
- And many more have done so as well.
- The list of martyrs who passively give all for Jesus continues to grow.

4. Annas Questions Jesus 18:19-24

4. Annas Questions Jesus 18:19-24

- Christ's point is so beautifully simple and the church has continued to follow his model.
- Our teaching is open to the world.
- In fact, it is our goal to spread it as far and wide as we possibly can.

4. Annas Questions Jesus 18:19-24

- The officer who strikes Jesus employs a very old strategy.
- When your arguments are weak, you can always respond with “How dare you say such things!”

5. More Denials by Peter 18:25-27

5. More Denials by Peter 18:25-27

- Peter denies Jesus over and over again.
- First it was the servant girl in v.17.
- Now it several others, including a relative of Malchus, who we met in v.10.
- It would be worth deciding now what we would do if we were ever to get in trouble for our faith.

6. Pilate and the Crowd 18:28-32

6. Pilate and the Crowd 18:28-32

- **18:28** They are concerned about entering a Gentile space for ceremonial reasons.
- What about what they are doing to Jesus?
- **18:29-30** The reply does not answer the question.
- **18:31** Their goal is only to put Jesus to death.

6. Pilate and the Crowd 18:28-32

- 18:32 to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken

- John 12:32-33 (ESV)

³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³ He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

7. Jesus, Pilate & Barabbas 18:33-40

- We can thank [Stephen Langton](#), the 13th Century Archbishop of Canterbury for the chapter break.
- [Come back next week for the next episode.](#)

7. Jesus, Pilate & Barabbas 18:33-40

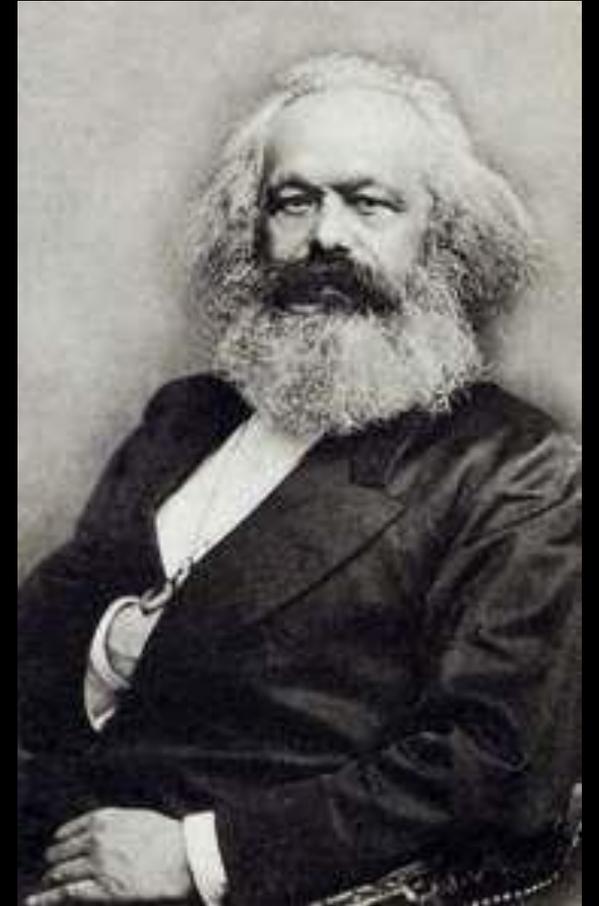
- Here's that key verse once more.
- **John 18:36** (ESV)

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

7. Jesus, Pilate & Barabbas 18:33-40

[T]here is only one way in which the murderous death agonies of the old society and the bloody birth throes of the new society can be shortened, simplified and concentrated, and that way is revolutionary terror.³

*– Karl Marx,
from an 1848 News Article*



7. Jesus, Pilate & Barabbas 18:33-40

- Jesus intends to transform the world, but not by this-worldly means.
- He begins with individual hearts right now.
- He will complete the job of bringing in the kingdom when he returns.

7. Jesus, Pilate & Barabbas 18:33-40

- 18:38 What is truth?
- If only Pilate had waited for an answer.

- John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 18 What We Just Read

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John 18 Key Points

John 18 Key Points

1. Jesus carried out his ministry openly and was fully prepared to accept the consequences of it.
2. Peter was unprepared to face the consequences of following Jesus.
3. We should take both examples as a caution for us.
4. Jesus is a king and has a kingdom of which we are already a part.
5. It is not, however, brought in by violent means.

John 18 A Prayer

John 18 A Prayer

- Dear heavenly Father,
- We see Jesus ready to face the consequences of the life he lived and the ministry he carried out. Those consequences led to his arrest, his trials and his death.
- We certainly have much more in common with Peter, who cracked under pressure and denied his Lord.
- Help us to love and serve you openly regardless of the cost.

John 18 A Prayer

- Help us also to remember that Christ's kingdom is one of love, of mercy, of grace and truth. It is not a kingdom set up by violence.
- Let us be busy furthering that kingdom even now.
- Should the day come when we have to endure consequences for our faith, help us to do so boldly.
- As Christ your Son did, let us do the same.
- Amen

John 18 References

1. Mugshots of Whitey Bulger:
<https://www.casino.org/news/extortion-and-gambling-kingpin-whitey-bulgar-found-dead-in-prison/>
2. Photo Garden of Gethsemane:
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