

## My Kingdom Is Not of This World!

### TODAY'S READING: JOHN 18

*In this chapter, Jesus is arrested after his betrayal by one of his own disciples. The trials that follow—first by the religious leaders and then by a worldly authority—are based entirely on lies, include false witnesses and do not follow the proper legal process. Driven by jealousy, hatred and greed, these people wanted to silence him once and for all. Jesus, however, was not shaken in the face of this injustice; his faith and trust in God were unmoved. He knew and testified that his Kingdom is not of this world (verse 36).*

*Around the world, many Christians are persecuted simply because they believe in Jesus Christ. They are discriminated against, falsely accused, arrested, imprisoned and even killed because society or those in power want to silence them—often out of jealousy or hatred, or because they are afraid of those who speak the truth. During the pandemic, this situation has only worsened for many. One reason is that prisons are among the most dangerous places in an epidemic and no protection is available. The Bible describes all believers in Christ as forming “one body,” and it goes on to say that “if one part suffers, every part suffers with it” (1 Corinthians 12:12, 26) Today is an opportunity to remember and pray for those within our body who are suffering.*



### Happening Now:

*Iran has been severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic, and prisoners have been especially vulnerable to infection because of the lack of open space and poor hygiene. Therefore, Iran has allowed tens of thousands of prisoners to be temporarily released. According to recent media reports, however, the Iranian government has refused to release many Christians. Please pray for their protection, and for comfort and strength for them and their families at this time.*

### Have You Thought About...

- *Jesus could overcome the injustice he experienced because he looked ahead to the Kingdom that is not of this world. How could this perspective be helpful in the current crisis to you or someone you know?*
- *Has your trust in God been shaken because of an unjust situation? How do you think God felt about Jesus being betrayed, arrested and put on trial?*
- *When persecuted Christians are asked how we can help them, their first response is “please pray for us.” Would you take a moment today to pray for those who suffer because of their faith?*