

Jesus Stands Trial before Pilate

John 18:28 – 19:16

Read 18:28-37

v.28 – By Jewish law entering the house of a gentile would cause a Jewish person to be ceremonially unclean and he would therefore be unable to partake in worship at the Temple or celebrate the feasts. Afraid of being defiled, these men stayed outside. They kept the ceremonial law, while harboring hatred and plans for murder in their hearts.

v.33-34 – Why would Pilate be interested in Christ's claims of kingship? Look up: Luke 23:2

“*Is that your own idea?*” – Israel was a captive nation, under the authority of the Roman Empire. As the Roman governor, Pilate would have been interested if Jesus was planning a rebellion. However as religious matter, Jesus would have only been a religious figure (self proclaimed or not); and barring any disturbances, the Jews were free handle their own religious matters.

v.36 – What proof did Jesus give that His kingdom is from another place? How were ruling parties established or changed?
Look up: Daniel 2:44

v.37 – What condemnation upon both Pilate and the Jews is implied? Look up: Hebrews 4:2

Read 18:38-40

v.38 – “What is truth?”: a dismissal of the whole subject as irrelevant.

Luke tells us that the crowd at this point insists Jesus has been causing trouble all over Judea, beginning in Galilee. Because Jesus' home was in the region of Galilee; this gave Pilate an excuse to send Jesus to Herod, the ruler of Galilee. Herod was in Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. Herod was eager to see Jesus do a miracle, but when Jesus remained silent Herod wanted nothing to do with him and sent him back to Pilate (Luke 23:5-12).

Pilate didn't like the religious leaders. He wasn't interested in dealing with this “religious” issue of the Jews. However, he knew that an uprising in his district might cost him his job. First he tried to compromise with the religious leaders by having Jesus beaten. But finally he gave in and handed Jesus over to be executed (Luke 23:13-25).

v.40 – The Jews hated being governed by Rome. Barabbas had taken part in a failed uprising. Note the stark contrast between Barabbas, a violent man (Acts 3:14) concerned with this world's politics, and Jesus, whose kingdom is not of this world.

Read 19:1-11

v.1 - Will God excuse someone who knowingly but unwillingly participates in the sins of others? Look up: James 4:17

v.1-3 – What was Christ's behavior during this violent torture (Isaiah 52:14)? Look up: Isaiah 53:7, 1 Peter 2:23-24

v.4 –6 – What was Pilate's assessment of Jesus and any threat that He posed to the Roman government?

How did the bloody and marred appearance of Christ affect these religious rulers?

Compare verses 4 and 6. Describe the progression in these statements. Look up: Proverbs 29:25

v.7 – The Jews were not permitted to execute anyone. First they told Pilate Jesus was a criminal (18:30).

What effort did they make to strengthen their charge against Jesus? Look up: Leviticus 24:16

v.8-9 - The discussion Pilate had just had with Jesus about his kingdom (18:33-37) now begins to make more sense to Pilate.

v.10 – Jesus' silence is the fulfillment of the silence demonstrated by the suffering servant in Isaiah 53:7.

v.11 - Pilate (an appointed official) understood that power is dependent on the one having given it, in his case, the emperor.
Jesus' reference to *from above* gives Pilate a hint as to the answer to his question of where Jesus is from (19:9).

Read 19:12-16

v.12- How did the Jews attempt to intimidate Pilate?

As the Roman governor of the area Pilate was expected to keep the peace. Pilate would not have wanted reports of uprisings in his region to get back to Caesar. Such reports could have cost him his job and even his life.

v.15-16 – The Jewish leaders were so desperate to rid themselves of Jesus, that despite their hatred of Rome, they shouted, “*We have no king but Caesar*” (Hosea 3:4). Their own words condemned them; God was to be their only true King, but they abandoned every trace of loyalty to Him. These Jews and chief priests claimed allegiance to Rome in order to kill their Messiah.