

John 18:28-40

~ Jesus: Lord of His Own Trial ~

Introduction

Years ago an American business man was boarding a flight on a major American airline...

About **90 minutes into** his flight – the flight attendant served him his usual **scheduled salad**...but **much to his dismay** as he pulled back the aluminium foil:

Lying on top of the **entire bed of lettuce** was a very large/ dead cockroach!

His **initial shock** – **quickly turned** to disgust – which **morphed into** outrage!

All he wanted to do was **to get home** and write a **scathing letter** to the **company's president!**

To which he formally did!

So **much to his surprise** then – **only a few days later** he received a special delivery letter – **written & prepared** on the company's **official letterhead** – and signed by the president of the company himself!

It was **dripping** with apology:

*Dear Mr. Smith, please allow me to express my sincerest apologies regarding the incident that occurred on your most recent flight **with us**...I have taken immediate action regarding your request. I have temporarily pulled the aeroplane off of the line. We have stripped the seats – scoured the upholstery – that plane will **NOT be used again** until everything is in **tip-top condition**. As to the flight attendant who served you your meal, she has been placed on administrative leave – in fact her very job is in jeopardy as we speak.*

*Dear sir you have my **absolute guarantee** that such a thing will **never happen again** – please continue to fly on our airline.*

Sincerely written,

The President!

Well, the man was **duly impressed as you can imagine** – such a sincere and heartfelt apology:

He began to book his **very next flight!**

That is however until he **turned the letter over** and notice **something very odd** that was standing out of place...

Somehow/ in some way the president's original post-it **to his secretary** had become attached to the back of this **apology letter** written to the man – and written on back of the **post-it** was this brief request:

Send this guy the standard roach letter!

Double Standards

It's disgusting isn't it... absolutely unthinkable!

NOT the standard roach letter mind you:

But the **attitude** of it!

The **hypocrisy** behind it!

The **double** standards!

Here you have the president of this **prestigious airline** trying to **save face** – while covering his tracks with **vain & unless** lies!

Putting on a show for **exterior motives** while all the while – disregarding the **good** and **well-being** of his very own customers...

Seeking to please and uphold the **external pleasures** of health, safety and virtue – all the while defiling those virtues with a **heart of double standards...**

It's the kind of attitude we see right here in our text!

Recap

According to plan Jesus has been **arrested** and **tried** by this religious/hypocritical Kangaroo court!

Exposing the **guilt** of the Jews – and the **weakness** of the **Roman army**...

Jesus is marching headlong first into the **full** and **final** hour of His ultimate death!

Last week we saw Jesus **standing** before Annas the **former** High Priest of Israel – but what we discovered was that:

Annas was standing **on Trial** before Jesus the King of glory!

So after being **tested** and **tried** and **found guiltless** before this corrupt & immoral Sanhedrin – Annas then sends him to Caiaphas **in verse 24**...

The hope is that Caiaphas will have **better luck** dealing with this **obstinate** – **stubborn** – and **hard-hearted** Rabbi...

And it's here that Jesus now endures the **second phase** of His religious trial:

Jesus stands before Caiaphas the **current** high priest!

Now you'll notice that John **doesn't actually record** any of the interaction between **Caiaphas** and **Jesus**!

John **already assumes** that his readers are familiar with the other 3 Gospels...

And so **John will simply** point us back to **Peter** in verse 25 – and then on to Pilate in verse 28!

Matthew's Gospel

And so just in case you are **unfamiliar with** the religious trial found in the Gospel of Matthew – allow me to fill you in!

In the early hours **of the day** somewhere between **3 to 5 a.m.** Jesus is led to Caiaphas who summons **a few of his goons** to try and catch Jesus in the act of **public blasphemy!**

Jesus has already blasphemed in the Garden standing before 600 Roman soldiers – they just needed a **formal Jewish setting** for this sin to take place!

Night

Now John is crystal clear that this trial at night **in no way** is legitimate or legal according to Jewish law!

See the Mishnah had directly commanded that:

*All public trials must take place **during the day** and must never ever be held under the **cover of night**, conveying the idea of **a pure justice** and equity in the eyes of the people!*

And so after listening to the onslaught of the **petty** and **inconsistent** charges that are **levelled against Jesus** – Jesus in fulfillment of specific prophecy:

*Opens not His mouth before these wolves – like a lamb that is led to the slaughter of its death, He remained silent and opened **NOT** His mouth...*

This clearly infuriates the religious leaders!

Being frustrated with the ineptitude of the religious leaders and **failing to establish** the grounds on which they can formally convict this hard-hearted rabbi – Caiaphas stands up in the **middle of this meeting** and explodes in at the top of his voice:

I charge you in the presence of the living God – tell us whether you are the Christ, the Son of God!

Jesus then **opens His mouth** – confirms their conviction – and finally gives them the truth:

It is as you say that it is – I am the Christ, and you will see my presence coming on the clouds of glory!

Caiaphas **rips his robe** from top to bottom and drops the gavel of justice and cries out:

Blasphemy! What more do we need to hear!

And these men finally get their wish!

They can now finally put this man to death on the charges of:

Public Blasphemy!

Death Sentence

Imagine how happy they would have been this very moment – **only to realize** that there's **one major & overarching problem:**

These men could no longer carry out the death penalty!

Years ago **Rome had rescinded the rights** for the Jews to carry out the death sentence!

Leaving the job of Capital Punishment **solely in the hands** of the Roman governor – who at this point in time was none other than:

Pontius Pilate the Gentile!

And so if Jesus is going to be put to death by the hands of the religious Jewish leadership – Israel is now **going to have to partner** with Rome in order to do so!

Which shouldn't be an issue considering they had **just partnered with them** only a few hours ago in the garden right?

Religious Hypocrisy

Enter stage left – point number one:

The stench of religious hypocrisy

Verse 28:

*Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. And it was early morning. But they **did not enter** the headquarters themselves; otherwise **they would be defiled** and unable to eat the Passover meal...*

Gentile Homes

John is wanting us to see that's it's **the early hours** of Friday morn!

Probably around 6 a.m. at this point – this is a **time indicator** showing us that:

*The courts of Israel were now **officially in session!***

The chief priests and pharisees want Jesus to be the first one on the docket!

And so:

Time is of the essence!

They wanted to leave enough time to have Jesus **tried – convicted – and crucified** because they still wanted to eat the Passover Meal in time for the **Jewish sabbath!**

Which is why John indicates in verse 28:

*They themselves **did not enter** the headquarters; lest they become defiled and unable to eat the Passover meal...*

So what exactly does that mean?

Well according to the book of Numbers **in Numbers 19:**

*Any Jew that **came into contact** with a dead/defiled, body, or anyone who **enters the home** of a person who has a dead/defiled, body – that person becomes **ceremonially unclean** for 7 full days...*

7 entire days of **NOT being able** to participate in the religious Jewish Passover!

But what does that have to do with entering a Roman home?

Well according to Jewish folklore many of the Jews believed that Gentile homes contained **pre-mature & aborted fetuses** that were either buried in their yard – or flushed down their sewers making the entire premises **ceremonially unclean!**

To enter the house of a Gentile then would mean that **these religious leaders** were disqualified from participating in:

The **biggest and most prestigious** event **ever to occur** on the Jewish calendar!

And these are the leaders!

And so if they become ceremonially defiled – imagine how that's going to look in the eyes of the people of Israel!

Ceremonially unclean

Now I do hope that we see the **religious hypocrisy** that John is wanting us to see!

They are **consumed** and **concerned** with outward appearances – all the while **plotting** to **kill** and to **capture**:

The innocent Son of God!

They will scheme **all night long** trying to kill and murder their **very own Messiah** – yet they will **quibble & care** about being **ceremonially unclean!?!?**

Are you kidding me!

These men **couldn't be** more religiously defiled!

Jesus said of these men in Matthew chapter 26 – they are:

Straining at a gnat while swallowing a camel!

Cleaning the cup – while harbouring food!

Tithing with dill – while neglecting the widow!

Cleaning the tomb – while having dead man's bones inside!

They may as well send Jesus in a **post it note attached!**

They are:

Foul – feral – fickle – ferocious – evil – malicious – vile – appalling – contemptible – depraved –
despicable – disgusting – horrid – cantankerous – immoral – miserable – nasty – noxious –
pernicious – repugnant – repulsive – sinful men:

Who have **no issues** eating a roach salad – while claiming to care for the moral law of God!

The reality is friends – **one pastor** has said:

*Had they entered the Praetorium of the Governor they would **NOT have been** defiled by
Gentile impurity – they **would have defiled** this governor!*

It's disgusting!

Pilate Knows

And John knows this – which is why he says in verse 29:

So Pilate came out and said to them, “What charge do you bring against this man?”

Now friends – you need to understand:

Pilate is **NOT** an idiot at this point!

He is **NOT** that stupid!

Pilate knows exactly why these men are bringing Jesus **to Him** at 6am.

Pilate has heard about Jesus – **entering Jerusalem** riding on a donkey being praised as a King!

He knows that **this is Jesus** the one who **single-handedly** cleared out an entire Temple at the beginning and the end of his public ministry!

He knows that **this is Jesus** – the man who can feed 20,000 people with bread and fish **in a single day!**

He knows that **this is the Jesus** – who has been infuriating the religious leaders with his sound and theological teaching!

I mean let’s **NOT the fact** that literally **just sanctioned** the arrest of this man **only a few hours ago** by deploying **600 troops** to the Eastern Slopes of Jerusalem!

Pilate knows **exactly who** He is – He **knows exactly** why they are there – and he knows the exact charges that they’re **about to bring!**

Political Pride

So why does he ask them the question?

Well the answer is actually **2-fold** in the eyes of John!

First:

John wants to show us the pride of this Roman governor!

Pilate was known to be a cantankerous – proud – arrogant – egotistical ruler who loved showing his power through his presence!

*Pilate wants them to recognize that they would have **no religious authority** without the backing of his Roman rule!*

And he wants them to see that!

Roman Trial

The other reason why he begins this way is because:

He wants to formally conduct his own official trial

And as it were this question in verse 29 **formally opens** the official Roman proceedings!

Remember last week I was saying that Jesus endured **2 official trials** – both having **3 distinct phases**:

There is the **Roman Political Trial** – conducted by Pilate!

&

There is the **Jewish religious Trial** – conducted by these Jews!

The **Jewish religious trial** is what we saw last week with Annas – then handing him over to Caiaphas in verse 24!

The Roman political trial begins right here in verse 29!

And so this question **formally begins** the proceedings of:

The official Roman trial!

No Charges

And it's clear that this question **rattles these Jews** – verse 30:

If this man weren't a criminal, we wouldn't have handed him over to you...

I'm sorry where is the charge in that reply?

Where are the grounds to convict Him?

If this man weren't a criminal, we wouldn't have handed him over to you...

In other words:

*We really have **no good reason** to hand Him over Pilate at **least NOT according to the Roman side of things** – but in our eyes and in our understanding, you **just have to believe us**: He's a really bad guy – you just have to convict Him!*

See they wanted Pilate to rubber stamp this whole thing!

They thought that Pilate **was on team Caiaphas** because he had just sanctioned the arrest of this man only a few hours ago...

And these Jews know that **no Roman Governor** is going to convict a man and put him to death **over the charges of blasphemy!**

Political Power

And so Pilate retorts with his **own political power** in verse 31:

Then take Him and judge Him by your own law then...

If the charges are simply going to be an **in-house discussion** – then what does that have to do with Rome?!?!?

They reply in verse 31:

*It is **NOT** legal for us to put anyone to death, the Jews declared....*

And Pilate thinks to himself:

So you do need me!

See this shows the **dependence** of the Jews upon the **Roman order!**

It shows that Pilate **wanted these Jews** to recognise his political power:

He loved wielding his authority and showmanship!

That was the kind of ruler he was!

D.A Carson notes in his commentary:

*The Pilate disclosed on the pages of history almost certainly acted this way – not so much out of any compassion for justice on the part of the Jews but out of the **ego-building satisfaction** he gained from making the Jewish authorities jump through his legal hoops to recognize his authority...*

He was a narcissist!

And when you have **that much** of a narcissistic ruler – **coming up against** the pride of religious hypocrisy– **it's easy to imagine** Jesus as simply being the small and helpless **victim** that's **being caught** in the middle!

You've got these **2 powerhouses** of religion and **it seems like** poor old little Jesus is standing in the middle!

Divine Sovereignty

Which is why John so **wonderfully reminds us** of the ultimate authority Jesus has and **who's really in charge** in verse 32:

They said this so that Jesus's words might be fulfilled indicating by what kind of death He was going to die.

So they the Jews said **these very things** – so that the words of Jesus would ultimately come to pass!

Roman Cross

Friends do you realize that the death of Jesus **dying on a cross** was always going to be **the primary strategy** of God **winning the nations!**

He had been planning this event **from all of eternity** – and revealing it **time and time again** all throughout His earthly ministry!

John 3:14:

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so too the Son of Man must be lifted up...

John 8:28:

When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He...

John 12:32:

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

I mean even His disciples – the forerunner to the Christ **understood** the mission of Jesus coming into the world – John 1:29:

The next day when John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him, he said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

He said this indicating by what kind of death He was going to die!

Friends do you realize that:

If Rome **had NOT** rescinded the rights of the Jews to exercise capital punishment – Jesus would have been **executed by stoning**:

Unable to fulfill the **specific prophecy** of *being lifted up* on a cross and dying a sacrificial atoning death because Deuteronomy 21 says:

Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree!

And so once again John shows us the hidden hand of the authority of Jesus that He is **marching headlong** toward the cross!

The death of Jesus

Jesus was born to die a sacrificial & atoning death where He would come and bruise the head of the serpent – Genesis 3:15!

Where He destroyed the works of the Devil – 1st John 3:8!

Where He fulfilled the entire sacrificial system – Hebrews 9 & 10!

Giving His life as a ransom for many – Mark 10:45!

Being crushed and bruised for our iniquity – Isaiah 53!

Bearing our sins in His body on the tree – 1st Peter 2:24!

Where He would redeem us from the curse of the Law – Galatians 3:13!

Cancelling our record of debt – Colossians 2:14!

Disarming the rulers and powers and authorities – Colossians 2:15!

Giving Himself up as a fragrant offering – Ephesians chapter 5!

Satisfying the Father's wrath – 1st John chapter 2!

Making us the righteousness of God – 2 Corinthians chapter 5!

Glorifying His Father in heaven – John 17!

Not losing a single one of us – John chapter 18!

And all because of His Father's mission that was set before the world began!

Total Control

And so friends **even in** this moment of unjust wicked tyrannical rulers – Roman Pride vs. Political Power:

Jesus maintains **full** and **total** sovereignty over **every single moment!**

Every single step is pre-ordained and pre-arranged by Jesus the King of His very own trial!

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world – and He does it on His **terms** – His **orders** – and His **conditions!**

So that we the guilty may go free!

He is the Saviour who is lifted up!

By turning from your sin and putting your **full & total** trust in Jesus Christ alone:

You can be set free – and you can now experience the joy of eternal life in God!

Jesus is the only God who can take away our sins by **bearing them on the tree!**

And He's been **planning this moment** ever since the world began!

In fact even before then **in eternity past** – because Jesus is the King over religious hypocrisy!

Point 2

Point number 2:

Full and total sovereignty in the midst of Roman political power!

Verse 33:

Then Pilate went back into the headquarters, summoned Jesus, and said to Him, *Are you the king of the Jews?*

Friends that is the first question posed by Pilate in **all 4 of the Gospel accounts!**

In fact in all 4 Gospel accounts that is the **very first question** that is posed on the lips of Pilate!

This shows us how important it is for Pilate to know the **identity** and the **character** of Jesus Christ!

And the **reason that's important** for Pilate is because **in Luke's account** of this narrative the Jews brought **an extra charge against** Jesus in Luke 23:

*Then the whole company of them rose and brought Him before Pilate. And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to **give tribute to Caesar**, and saying that He Himself is **Christ, a king.**"*

*And so Pilate asked Him, **Are you the King of the Jews?***

Pilate in Shock

In fact the way that it's expressed **in the Greek** puts the emphasis on the word **you:**

***YOU!** The king of the Jews!*

This guy!

Are you kidding me!

You can **almost hear** the insult and chuckle in the text!

You see when Pilate looked at Jesus he **didn't see a noble and valiant honourable King** – he sees a man who is:

Bloodied – & bruised – & battered by His own people!

A man with no army – no weapons – no swords – no shields – no legion!

A man who had no horses – no chariots – no gold – no silver – no crown:

NOTHING!

There was **nothing about Jesus** that looked Kingly at this point:

He looked nothing like a King!

There was nothing that was beautiful!

Nothing attractive!

He had no form of majesty that we should desire Him!

Nothing that was **threatening to Pilate**

Jesus the Judge

That is **until this King** begins to speak – and notice that the interrogator **now becomes** interrogated – verse 34:

Jesus answered Pilate: are you asking this on your own, or have others told you about me?

Is this something you've come to by your own understanding Pilate – or are you just following the crowds...

Do you actually believe I am a King – or are you judging me by your own worldly and fleshly appeal?!?!

And all of a sudden Pilate begins to feel the pressure...

Jesus has just done **the very thing** Pilate did to these Jews a few moments ago...

And now Jesus begins **His own Kingly investigation**...

And Pilate **doesn't like it** – verse 35:

I'm not a Jew, am I?" Pilate replied. "Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me...

Now you'll notice that all of a sudden Pilate **now fails to answer the question** that Jesus has asked – remember the Jews in verse 30:

If He weren't a criminal we wouldn't have handed Him over to you...

Now what does Pilate do:

I'm not a Jew, am I? Your own nation handed you over to me...

All of a sudden Pilate fails to answer the question!

He does **the same thing** that they do in verse 30 – because **Pilate is feeling the pressure!**

My Kingdom

And so in verse 36 Jesus **drops the gavel** of His identity and says to Pilate plainly:

Verse 36:

*My kingdom is **NOT** of this world...*

Pilate looks at Jesus thinking He does NOT look like a King and Jesus replies:

The reason why is because my Kingdom is NOT of this world!

You better believe I am a King Pilate!

*But it's a Kingdom like you've **never seen before...***

Now friends take a breath and bear with me as I explain to you one the most **misapplied & misunderstood** Scriptures in **all of Christian history!**

Jesus the King

The first thing I want you to notice about verse 36 is that Jesus emphatically declares Himself to be a King:

Right there **in the face of** this political Roman leader!

He has a Kingdom!

He is a King!

And in fact, **Matthew Gospel** says that when Pilate asked Jesus:

Are you the King of the Jews!

Jesus replies:

It is as you say that it is!

In common parlance:

You said it brother!

Yes and amen I am a King!

I am the King of the Jews!

In fact my kingdom is **far bigger** than the Kingdom of Israel – because:

My Kingdom **does NOT originate** in this world!

It does **NOT begin** in this world!

But its **source & origin** is in God Himself!

NOT FROM

In fact the Greek here is **highly significant** to understand the nature of this statement – John uses the Greek preposition **ek** – which is **out of** – it's here we get our English word:

Exit from!

Ek = out of!

So Jesus is **NOT so much** making a statement about **the nature** of His kingdom as He is telling us about:

The **source** of His Kingdom!

The **origin**!

The **starting point**!

Jesus' Kingdom does **NOT** originate in this world – like the other earthly kingdoms do:

With swords – and weapons – and shields – and soldiers!

Bad Hermeneutic

Which is a **very different way** to how people **normally read** this text – normally people will say something – Jesus says in verse 36:

*My Kingdom is **NOT in** this world!*

*My Kingdom does **NOT impact** this world!*

*My kingdom has **NO concern** for this world!*

***NO interest** in this world!*

***NO application** in this world!*

But **that's NOT** what Jesus is say at all – because the Greek here is **abundantly clear** that:

Jesus was emphasizing the **origin** – **NOT** the **location**!

Another way to say this:

*My Kingdom is **NOT carnal**!*

*My kingdom is **NOT militant**!*

It does **NOT** come about:

Through sword – shield – weapons – warfare – soldiers – but through:

The **heavenly means** of spirit & truth!

Remember that passage in **Matthew 20** where Jesus is talking to His disciples about who is the greatest **in the Kingdom of God** – and what does He say to them:

*You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, but it is **NOT** to be that way among you – for whoever would be first among you must be the servant of all!*

My kingdom is NOT a kingdom produced by **earthly means**:

Soldiers – armies – rulers – lords:

But my Kingdom is **IN** this world and **FOR** this world!

NOT Physical

Now we know that that's what Jesus is saying here because He **goes on** in **to qualify** the statement – **in verse 36:**

*If my kingdom **were of this world**, my servants would be fighting, so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from this place...*

If you want a good example of what Jesus is saying here – just look back at the **previous passage** in verse 10 where Peter tries to establish an **earthly militant kingdom** by cutting off Malchus' ear!

Peter **misunderstood** the nature of His kingdom!

And Jesus rebukes Peter – and tells him to **put down** his sword – because:

The Kingdom of God does NOT come about that way!

He says:

*Shall I **NOT** drink the cup that my Father has given me to drink!*

In other words:

This is a Kingdom that **comes about** through heavenly means!

Through the sacrificial death of the King **dying** on a cross & dying for sins!

Through Jesus Christ taking on flesh **to die for the world!**

And so we **must NOT make** the error friends that the kingdom of God is something that is purely a **spiritual reality!**

Something that is **hidden** – & unseen from the human eye!

Because:

The King Himself has come into this world!

People saw Him – they touched Him – they felt Him!

The King Himself has taken on flesh!

And sent His people out into the world!

Revelation 21 says that He comes to make His home **in this world!**

And so **yes and amen** His kingdom of God does **NOT** come from this world – but you had better believe it is **most certainly designed FOR** this world!

The fact of the matter is friends – is that because the kingdom of God does NOT originate **in** this world **is the very reason** it can challenge and judge all the other kingdoms **of** this world!

Truth

And the **reason why** Pilate should have been **so afraid** of this heavenly King the day that he met Jesus is because:

The primary means that God uses to grow His Kingdom in the world is the objective revelation of
TRUTH

This is a Kingdom concerned primarily with the Person and work of Jesus who is TRUTH!

Verse 37 – Pilate says:

So you are a king then?

And the New American Standard **gets it right** when translating Jesus here:

You say correctly that I am a King. And for this purpose, I have been born, and for this I have come into the world: to testify to the truth.

Truth Conquers

The **primary means** God uses to establish the Kingdom of God to destroy the Kingdoms of this earth is through the **preaching & proclamation** of the **objective truth** of the word of God!

The preaching & proclamation of the objective reality of the Gospel!

The preaching & proclamation of the Scriptures!

It is the preaching and proclamation of the truth that **topples nations** and **executes** judgment in the world!

I mean did we **NOT** just see **an expression** of this **only last week** with Jesus in the Garden – in **2 simple words**:

Jesus crumbles an entire army of soldiers with **truth!**

It is the truth that brings down entire kingdoms!

It is the truth that breaks down strongholds!

It is truth that eradicates wicked worldviews!

Truth that terminates Roman leaders!

Truth that **topples nations** and brings them to rubble **in light** of the Kingdom of God!

2nd Corinthians 10:5 says:

*For the weapons of our warfare are **not of the flesh** but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ And we are destroying arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, taking every thought captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ...*

And that right there is exactly what Jesus is saying to Pontius Pilate!

Rome

Consider Rome friends – why do people go to the **city of Rome** today – why do people go to visit Rome?

Is it for the pizza?

Or the pasta?

The wineries?

No people go to Rome to **ultimately see** one thing:

The **ruins** and the **rubble** of the former Roman Empire!

The ruins and the rumble of **all that is left** of Caesar's great nation!

And the church of the living God (the Kingdom of Christ) can count its members **today** by the billions!

Truth is what conquers nations!

Truth is what expands His Kingdom!

And so He says to Pilate:

Everyone on the side of truth **listens to His voice!**

So what about you Pontius Pilate?

What does He say about Jesus Christ?

Pilate's Response

Verse 38 is **all we need to know** about the state of Pilate's soul – Pilate replies:

What is truth?

If I can put it in a common expression – Pilate gives Jesus **the middle finger!**

It's the kind of question you ask – when truth is the **last thing** you're looking for!

I mean he's literally at arm's length away with the One who is the very **Truth incarnate** – only to turn around and walk away from the essence of truth!

Pilate **turns around** – addresses the crowd – and **dismisses** the claims of **Jesus!**

Conclusion

So what about you?

What will you do with Jesus Christ?

Will you submit yourself to the truth?

The truth of His word – the truth of His laws – the truth of His ways – the truth of His person?

Or will you reject the truth like Pilate did – sealing your eternal fate in the eternal flames of eternal hell...?!?!

It's **NOT** an intellectual question!

It's **NOT** a general knowledge question!

It's **NOT** a university textbook question!

It's an authority question!

Who has ultimate authority?

Will you **submit yourself** to the eternal purposes of this eternal God who has **graciously revealed Himself** through the Person and work of Jesus Christ?

Or will you walk away from the only one who is the way, the truth, and the life?!?!

Everything you **ever need to know** about God – you will find in Jesus Christ!

And all those on the side of truth – listens to His voice!

Do you?

Do you hear His voice calling you today in John 18?

What will you do with Jesus Christ?

John 18:28-40

Discussion Questions

[Read John 18:28-40].

Main Point: *Jesus is a King, who's building a kingdom, that's toppling nations, and conquering sin.*

Q1. What events have led up to this passage, and how do they set the stage for the interaction between Jesus and Pilate? – Why does John not record all of the religious trials of Jesus? – Is there something we can learn from this **[Hint: We should know our bible and be familiar with the Gospels]**.

Q2. [Read verses 29-32]. What does the Jewish leaders' insistence on not entering the governor's headquarters reveal to us about the state of their hearts? – What does this teach us about the hypocrisy of the human heart? – How can we avoid being like these religious Pharisees in our walk with God?

Q3. Why do you think the religious leaders were so determined to have Jesus executed? – What fears or motivations might have driven them to this point?

Q4. In verse 32, it mentions that Jesus' death would fulfill what He had previously said about His own death – what does this teach us about the nature of Christ? – Why is this good news for us?

Q5. [Read verses 33-40]. Explain the statement of Jesus “*My kingdom is not of this world.*” – How does Pilate's understanding of kingship differ from Jesus' portrayal of His kingdom? – What key distinctions can we draw between earthly power and the kingdom of God?

Q6. When Jesus speaks about truth, how does this challenge Pilate's perception of power? – In what ways does the concept of truth play a critical role in the establishment of Jesus' kingdom?

Q7. How does Jesus' definition of His kingship as being "not of this world" challenge our understanding of leadership and authority in the culture today?