

STUDY #49

Jesus before Pilate

John 18:28-19:16

John's Purpose Statement:

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:30-31

→ Review

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

→ Read John 18:28-32

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." ³² This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

1. Based on the context, who are the main characters in this passage?
2. What time and day of the week was it? Based on this, why did the Jewish religious leaders refuse to enter the headquarters of the Roman governor?
3. What accusation did the Jews bring against Jesus? Did they actually answer Pilate's question? (vs 29-30)
4. What was the Jews' true motive for bringing Jesus before Pilate? (vs 31) How did this fulfill Jesus' prophecy? See also Mark 10:32-34

Mark 10:32-34 "And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³ saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem,

and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴ And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise.”

→ Read John 18:33-38

³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ 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.” ³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸ Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him.”

1. Here we see Pilate interrogating Jesus. What 4 important questions does Pilate ask?
 - a. _____ (vs 33)
 - b. _____ (vs 35b)
 - c. _____ (vs 37)
 - d. _____ (vs 38)
2. What do you notice about how Jesus answers Pilate’s questions?
3. How does Jesus describe His kingdom? (vs 36)
4. For what purpose did Jesus come into the world? What does He say is a defining characteristic of those who are of the truth? (vs 37)
5. At this point, what is Pilate’s conclusion about Jesus? (vs 38)

→ Read John 18:39-19:8

³⁹ But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber. **19** Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³ They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶ When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid.

1. What solution did Pilate provide in attempt to release Jesus? How did the Jewish leaders respond? (vs 39-40)
2. In order to appease the Jewish leaders, what did Pilate do to Jesus? How did the Roman soldiers further mock Jesus?
3. Were the Jewish leaders satisfied with Pilate's punishment of Jesus? What did they want instead?
4. Again, what is Pilate's conclusion about Jesus? (vs 4, 6)
5. Why was Pilate afraid? (vs 7-8)

→ Read John 19:9-11

⁹ He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

1. How did Jesus respond to Pilate's question in vs 9? How is this different from the previous interactions between Pilate and Jesus?

2. Compare and contrast Pilate's authority vs. Jesus' authority.
3. Who does Jesus appear to be referring to in vs 11 when He said, "...Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin"?

→ Read John 19:12-16

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus...

1. Although Pilate wanted to release Jesus, how did the Jewish leaders convince him to carry out their ultimate plan?
2. What day did this trial take place? (vs 14)
3. Who did the Jewish leaders declare as their king?
4. What was Pilate's final verdict?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is Jesus to you?
2. Have you acknowledged Jesus as King, Lord, and Savior of your life? Are you living in such a way that reflects this?
3. Do you live your life seeking man's approval or God's? How can you be certain?
4. How can we know truth? What changes do you need to make in order to be able to stand up for truth?

***Next lesson: John 19:17-30 (Jesus crucified)**