

John Lesson 53 Jesus Before Pilate John 18:28-18:40

Pray: Before you begin lift your heart to God and ask for the Spirit's help as you read the passage and work through these questions in His divine presence and you certainly will be given understanding.

Background:

Roman Courts usually convened at day break so there was nothing unusual about bringing Jesus to Pilate between 6 and 7AM.

Gentile residences were considered ritually impure primarily because of their association with idols. The Jews also ran the risk of coming into contact with leaven or leavened bread which was forbidden during Passover.

Pilate had a reputation of being uncooperative when dealing with Jewish religious matters and was often insensitive to Jewish concerns.

The Jews wanted Jesus crucified not stoned. Stoning was the usual punishment for blasphemy. According to Deuteronomy 21:23 "he that is hanged is cursed of God." The Jews wanted all to know that Jesus was rejected and cursed of God.

Key word:

Truth: Strong's G225 "aletheia" truth of idea and reality. truth in the moral sphere; divine truth revealed to man.

Malefactor: Strong's G2555 "kakopoios" a criminal , or evil doer. one who commits a crime.

Jesus Questioned by Pilate: The First Roman Phase before Pilate

The Sanhedrin had met before dawn. They charged Jesus with the crime of blasphemy.(Luke 22:66-71) They desired the death penalty for Jesus. They were not authorized to carry it out but Rome could. Roman law authorized the penalty of crucifixion for treason. When they brought Jesus before Pilate they changed the charge from blasphemy to one of treason (Luke23:1-2). This served two purposes: 1) it gave them a charge that the Roman court would want to deal with and 2) the Roman penalty for those convicted of treason was crucifixion.

1. In John 18:28 how did the Jewish rulers prove themselves to be hypocrites? (See Matthew 23:23-28)

2. What specific charges did they bring against Jesus and how did this reveal the state of their hearts? (Luke 23:1-2 and John 18:30)

Application: The Jews fell into the trap of religious pride and self righteousness. We can easily fall into the same trap. What are some things we as Christians can take pride in? How can we guard against this sin?

3. Pilate, showing little interest in this case, tries to hand it back over to the Jews, but they want the death penalty and will not take it back. Pilate then begins to question Jesus Himself, asking Him if He is "King of the Jews". Jesus uses this opportunity to tell Pilate the truth about His Kingdom. What can we learn about Jesus and His kingdom from what He says to Pilate? What can we learn about those who are part of His kingdom? (John 18:33-37)

Application: Jesus tells Pilate that He came to bear witness to the truth. When and how did you come to the realization that Jesus not only bears witness to the truth, but is "the truth"?

4. In Jesus' discussion with Pilate what does He reveal of His heart? (John 18:33-37)

5. Pilate finds no fault in Jesus. He declares Him "not guilty". What does Peter have to say about Jesus that supports Pilate's verdict? (I Peter 1:18-19, I Peter 2:22)

Application: What stands out to you in this lesson?

