

## 32. John 18:28-19:6a

### Getting started

Have you ever been to court? What happened?

### Observation

#### Note:

*John records far more detail of the trial before Pilate than all the other gospels.*

1. Who was Pontius Pilate? *[The Roman governor of Judea appointed by Emperor Tiberius in AD 26.]*
2. Which 'Jews' lead Jesus to Pilate? *[Not 'all Jews' but the Jewish leaders.]*
3. Where had Jesus predicted what type of death he would die? *[See 12:32-33]*

### Interpretation

1. John uses a lot of irony in telling this story. What is ironic about the Jewish leaders being concerned about ceremonial uncleanness? *[Seeking the death of an innocent man, the Messiah, God's chosen king, and manipulating the legal system were much greater sins. Also, Jesus had come to replace the law the Jewish leaders were vainly trying to keep.]*
2. How does the statement in verse 30 sit with the questioning of the High Priest in verse 19-23?
3. What was the (implied) charge against Jesus? *[He was/claimed to be the King of Jews. This would be blaspheme to the Jews and possibly a threat to the Romans.]*
4. Do you think Pilate knew why the Jews had handed Jesus over to him (other than so he could be killed)? Did he really understand why the Jewish leaders objected to Jesus? In what ways does Pilate show contempt for the Jewish leaders?
5. What does Jesus disclose about himself and his kingdom? *[This is arguably the most important part of this exchange for us, so take your time with it. Note that Jesus is careful to not claim he is a threat to the Roman Empire.]*

6. What here suggests that Pilate was not interested in the answer to the question of 'what is truth'?
7. Verse 38, is there any truth in Pilate's initial judgement on Jesus? *[Yes, Pilate does seem to realise that Jesus is not a threat to the Empire. To the extent he is a 'king', he is not a king of this world.]*
8. If there was no basis for the claim against Jesus, why would Pilate consider releasing a prisoner in accordance with the Passover custom, when he should have released Jesus anyway? And if Jesus was innocent, why did Pilate order that he be flogged? *[Perhaps to get the Jews off his back.]*
9. What irony is there in the release of Barabbas? *[Barabbas was a threat to Roman rule, and Jesus was not. Yet Barabbas was released and Jesus was killed as an insurrectionist.]*
10. Why did they clothe Jesus in a purple robe and a crown of thorns, and why is this ironic?
11. Looking back, why is it ironic that Pilate should say, 'Here is the man'? *[Pilate did not know he had God in his hands.]*
12. Do you think Pilate is a tragic character?
13. What should we make of the Jews' demand that Jesus be crucified? What does this show of justice and the truth about Jesus?

## **Implications**

1. What 'truth' do we learn about King Jesus and the Kingdom of Jesus?
2. What does this passage show us about how should we respond to Jesus as King?

## **Prayer Suggestions**

1. Praise for the nobility shown by Jesus in this mock trial, and praise for Jesus sticking to his commitment to be the King who saves the world.
2. Ask for God to always make sure we see the truth.