

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe
Who Is In Control Here? (Part 2)
John 18:28-19:16 (page 754)

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Frank Mascaro

Jesus' "trial" had two phases:

- Religious (Jews)
- Civil (Rome)

Jesus is brought before the Roman authority – Pilate
(John 18:28-38b)

- The accusation (vs 28-32; 3:14; 8:28; 12:32-33)
- The interrogation (vs 33-36)
- The defense (vs 37-38a)
- The verdict (vs 38b)

Pilate in a pinch (John 18:39-19:16)

Three compromises:

- "Let me do you a favor"
(vs 39-40; Luke 23:18-20; Mark 15:6-15; Matt 27:15-26)
- "I will have Him beaten" (vs 1-3)
- "Look at this poor guy" (vs 4-6)

Three questions:

- "Where do you come from?" (vs 7-9)
- "Don't you know my power?" (vs 10-11)
- "Shall I crucify your King?" (vs 12-16)

Making an Impact...

You cannot remain neutral when it comes to Jesus Christ -
you must choose whether you will commit to truth or
to your own earthly passions.

Growth Group Sermon Study Helps

John 18:28-19:16 (Week Thirty-one)

(Note: This guide is to help *facilitate* discussion with your Growth Group. Use it as a *RESOURCE* for the group in discovering and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you *do not want to use* and there may be instances where the group *chooses to focus on a particular point, verse or truth*. This guide is to assist the group in growing in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, thus, it is not necessary to complete all of the points in the discussion guide...use this with flexibility and not as a rigid task list to get through. God's richest blessing upon you all.)

Intro:

Jesus has been arrested and brought before Annas and then Caiaphas and then the Sanhedrin and now He is taken in the very early morning to be handed over to Pilate, the governor of Judea, to be charged and punished. Once again, we see that everyone thinks that it is Jesus who is being tried, but it is not - rather it is Jesus who is trying all those around Him. Pilate starts out acting his part as the official Roman authority, but he soon finds that he is in over his head. He is caught between the unyielding demands of the Jewish leaders for a death sentence for Jesus and his own political and power based expediency in solving this situation before it blows up on him. He is desperate to find a solution that will satisfy everyone - but when it comes to Jesus, there is no such avenue...it is either Him or the world - there is no middle ground. Once again, Jesus is in control and Pilate is found wanting as are the Jewish leaders.

Discussion Questions

Was there anything said on Sunday that got your attention, a particular point, or that you have a question about?

Why is it easier to observe religious rituals than it is to love other people? (18:28-29) Discuss.

What is your impression of Pilate? Explain. What is your impression of the Jewish leaders? Explain.

Why is Pilate so concerned about whether or not Jesus is a king? (18:33-40; 19:12-16) Discuss.

How does Jesus describe His kingdom in 18:33-40? What is Jesus saying about His kingdom? How does that contrast with Pilate's kingdom?

How would you answer Pilate's question/comment in 18:38? Explain.

In 19:11, what does Jesus understand about authority and God's sovereignty that can give us confidence to face life today? Discuss.

What did the Jewish leaders say that caused Pilate's fear in 19:9?

Contrast the foundation for Jesus' kingdom with the foundation for earthly or worldly kingdoms - what are the differences? In this passage, which kingdom appears to be the most prominent? Why do you say that?

How do you think Jesus felt about Pilate? Why?

Taking it to the streets....

Have you ever been in a situation comparable to this...at work?...school?...family?...etc? Explain.

Has there been a time that, like Jesus, you have been willing to stand your ground regardless of the consequences? Describe.

Has there been a time that, like Pilate, you have been willing to sacrifice your principles in order to do something self-serving? Describe.