

Series "Jesus: God And Savior"
"Pilate Before Jesus"
John 18:28-38
Part-63

John 18:38 – "Pilate said to Him, 'What is truth?'" – Without belief in God, there are no absolutes!

John 1:11-12

John 3:19-21

1 Peter 2:4

The Thought Of Our Passage: Jesus Confronted Pilate With The Real Issue Of Life, One's Attitude Towards Truth.

1. Verses 28-32 – Accusation

2. Verses 33-35 – Interrogation

3. Verses 36-38 – Defense

4. Verse 38 – Verdict

1. Verses 28-32 – Accusation:

John 18:28

"Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas" – Jesus was brought before Caiaphas, who was the high priest. He was the high priest for 18 years.

Jesus Endured 6 Different Trials – 3 trials were Ecclesiastical, (Charging Jesus with Blasphemy); 3 trials were Civil (Charging Jesus With Treason):

1. Arraignment Before Annas: John 18:12-24.
2. Trial Before Caiaphas: Matthew 26:57-68; Mark 14:53-65; John 18:24.
3. The Sanhedrin Sentences The Savior to Death: Mark 15:1; Luke 22:66-71.
4. Jesus Presented To Pilate: Matthew 27:11-14; Mark 15:2-5; Luke 23:1-7; John 18:28-38.

5. Jesus Hearing Before Herod: Luke 23:8-12.

6. Jesus Sentenced To Death By Pilate: Matthew 27:15-26;
Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:39-19:16.

Pictures of The Praetorium: "they led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium," – The Antonia Fortress was located on the northwest corner of the Temple Mount, overlooking the Temple... It was the Gentile Hall of Judgment.

"and it was early;" – refers to the fourth watch; 3:00-6:00 AM in the morning.

Religion without reality is a sham, a fake, and a tragedy!

John 18:29

Pilate – His full name was "Pontius Pilate;" Was the governor of Judea for 10 years. He took the position after a series of civil and military appointments. He was in the position from AD. 26-36. His residency was in Caesarea.

Matthew 27:19

"What accusation do you bring against this Man?" – What is the charge? No legal action could be taken by a Roman Governor unless there were legal standings.

John 18:30 – "If this Man were not an evildoer" – "an habitual evildoer, one with an evil nature, inner nature begets outward crime."

"If this Man were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him to you."
– The Jews want Pilate to take their word for it that Jesus is guilty of a capital crime without even disclosing the crime!

Acts 25:16 – Roman Law requires 3 basic things:

1. A definite charge had to be placed against the accused.
2. The accused and the accuser were to be brought face to face.
3. The accused should be given the opportunity to speak for himself.

John 18:31

Pilate Taunt's The Jews: "Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law." – "Finish what you started!" They can't without Pilate, Acts 7:58-60.

"We are not permitted to put anyone to death," – Roman government had taken the right of capital punishment away from the Jews.

Jealousy Turned Into Hatred: What a tragic scene when religion that is supposed to represent God does the opposite.

John 18:32 – Jesus was going to the cross. Psalm 22 describes the cross 600 years before Rome even existed, Matthew 20:19.

John 3:13-15

John 12:32-33

2. Verses 33-35 – Interrogation:

John 18:33 – "Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium," – Pilate makes 4 trips from inner to outer court.

"Are You the King of the Jews?" – In the Greek Pilate said it with disdain, like "So YOU are the king of Jews are you?" The Jews say this, Luke 23:2.

John 18:34 – "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?" – Jesus places Pilate on trial! Jesus responds with a question to Pilate "are you asking the question as a Jew or as a Roman?"

John 18:35 – "Pilate answered, 'I am not a Jew, am I?'" – Pilate makes it clear that this is a Roman question (Political King).

"Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?" – How sad is it that the governor has to ask the prisoner what wrong or crime has he done!

3. Verses 36-38 – Defense:

John 18:36 – "Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world.'" – Not a danger to Rome, John 17:14.

The Kingdom of God is in a Spiritual Realm. That does not mean that it does not have an effect in our present world.

Luke 17:20-21

John 18:37

"So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king."
– Pilate knew royalty but Jesus was not like what he had seen.

Revelation 19:11-16

Jesus Is The King Of Truth: "For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth." – John 8:32-36.

"Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." – Was Pilate of the truth or not? If so, he would hear Jesus! 1 John 4:6.

John 18:38

"Pilate said to Him, 'What is truth?'" – This is not the question of a sincere seeker but a sarcastic sneer of someone that is really not interested.

Jesus confronted Pilate with the real issue at stake, Pilate's attitude towards truth! Jesus Was The Truth, John 14:6.

Without belief in God, there are no absolutes!

"And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews," – Pilate walked away from the only One that could have answered his question!

4. Verse 38 – Verdict:

"and said to them, 'I find no guilt in Him.'" – If Pilate had been a man of truth and integrity, he would have dismissed the charges and set Jesus free! He would be unpopular but nonetheless a just governor.

Application:

1. Jesus Confronted Pilate With The Real Issue Of Life, Which Is One's Attitude Towards Truth. Jesus Declared "I Am The Way, The Truth And The Life."
2. Jesus Said, John 18:37 – "Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Do We Believe Jesus' Words To Be God's Word? Belief And Obedience Go Together, 1 John 4:6.
3. Religion Without Reality Is A Sham, A Fake, And A Tragedy.