

I. The Transfer - John 18:28-32

1. With Caiaphas (**verse 28**)
 - with him Jesus was abused and assaulted through the night
2. Transferred to the “hall of judgment”
3. The group
 - soldiers, temple guards, and religious officials
4. They themselves did not go - lest they be defiled (**verse 29**)
- Rea -do you see the irony of plotting to kill someone but not wanting to be “defiled”
5. Defiled so that they would not be able to “eat the Passover”
 - contact with a Gentile
- Rea -so did they keep the “rules?”
6. What accusation do you bring? (**Verse 30**)
- Rea -what are the charges?
 - probably anticipated a serious charge
7. We would not have delivered Him is not a “malefactor”
 - in other gospels He is accused of opposing taxes and claiming to be Messiah
- Rea -is it just me, or do you hear a bit of smart aleck attitude in these who delivered Jesus... well of course there are charges!
 - threatened
- Rea 8. Two different lists of “rules” to be violated - Roman and Jewish
9. You take Him and judge Him (**verse 31**)
 - we cannot put Him to death
 - “Jews” are chief priests and Sanhedrin council
 - capital punishment was not allowed by their “law”
- Rea -so, by the use of the word “death” you see where they want to go with this
- Rea -also, sounds to me as if they had this answer waiting... knowing what Pilate might say - Satan is clever
10. The Scripture is fulfilled by their statement - see John 3:14 and Dt. 21:23 (**verse 32**)
- Rea 11. There is also a play on who is “really in charge” here - the Jews or Pilate?
- Rea **Ideas and Questions**
 1. Discuss how we often “rationalize” our decisions
 2. We all have our favorite “proof texts” and obey those fanatically... unless we want to do otherwise
 3. Pilate and these other leaders cross swords... they want to be the leader, not Pilate

II. The Trial - 18:33-38a

12. Pilate calls Jesus (**verse 33**)
 - are you the King of the Jews?
 - interrogated by Pilate, not lawyers (like our system of justice)
13. Jesus’ words (**verse 34**)
 - are you saying this? Or someone else?
 - He challenges the thinking about the charges brought
- Rea -He also clarifies for us what Jesus was about... not an earthly kingdom - not even in 2023

14. Am I a Jew? (**Verse 35**) - your own nation has brought you here
 -if these wanted Him crucified he assumed there was a reason
 -what have you done?
 Rea -a straightforward question from a person who is more unbiased than the Jewish leadership. The Jewish leadership sought to use the law to get their way. Always, laws may be twisted and turned - notice in our day how lawyers do it.
15. My kingdom is not of this world (**verse 36**)
 -He does not deny being king - but not a king of this world
 Rea -so Pilate asks the questions but Jesus knocks them out of the park - He is witnessing to Pilate - He introduces the idea of another kingdom to Pilate
 -if my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have fought to defend me
 -my kingdom is not from here
 Rea -remember here how Jesus taught again and again about the “kingdom of God is...”
16. Are you a king then? (**Verse 37**)
 -clarification - he only knows one type of kingdom
17. Jesus’ response - to this end (kingdom) was I born ...to bear witness to the truth
 Rea -His purpose - “born to be king” - this is the reason we sing (or used to) “I Surrender All”
18. What is truth? (**Verse 38a**)
 -because of political intrigue in Rome?
 -merely dismissive?
 Rea -I sense a philosophical whimsy in his voice... after all this is the time and day of philosophical word-smiths
 Rea -since the beginning of time all men have wondered “what is truth?” - I see it as a valid question, with a valid answer - “I am the way, the truth, and the life” - John 14
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. The nature of Jesus’ mission is brought out in virtually every encounter with person along His way - the Woman at the Well, the blind man, Nicodemus...
 2. Is Jesus your king/ Lord/ boss? - if so, He demands obedience
 -we often know a lot about this person, but still do not obey Him
 3. Who is interrogating who?

III. The Trade - Jn 18:38b-40

1. Went out to the Jews (**verse 38b**)
 - A. I find no fault in this man - He is no threat to Caesar or himself
 - B. No fault according to Roman law - certainly nothing that warrants death
 2. You have a custom that I release someone (**verse 39**) -at Passover
 -do you want me to release Jesus of Barabbas? (**Verse 40**)
 -Barabbas was a robber
 3. They cry “release Barabbas”
 -some reject Jesus regardless of the facts
 Rea -Jesus often does not get a “fair hearing”
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. A clear choice - we too make a clear choice - will we take Jesus as our “boss” or rule

ourselves?

2. Pilate was clever in pushing the decision back on them - politically shrewd
3. Justice would be served in crucifying Barabbas - but justice is not always served... is it?
4. When you do want to do the right thing... any ole answer will serve
5. Note that Barabbas required nothing from them, but Jesus required we die to ourselves, and take up our cross and follow Him - Luke 9:23

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