

Wednesday Night Fellowship Discussion Guide
Jesus meets Pilate – John 18:28-19:16
8/2/2023

Passage Summary

In this section of Scripture Jesus encounters Pilate, the Roman Governor of Judea, and through His interaction with him points him toward the truth. Pilate wrestles with who Jesus is and he wrestles with what is actually truth. Despite realizing that Jesus was not worthy of being put to death, Pilate determines to give him over to Jewish leaders who desired to kill him because of his fear of them.

Take a few moments and read John 18:28-19:16.

Discussion Questions

John 18:29–32

²⁹ So Pilate went outside to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” ³⁰ They answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.” ³¹ Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” The Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.” ³² This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

Why did the Jewish leaders desire to kill Jesus?

If people would accept Jesus as King today, what would change in our world?

If you are a believer, what fears did you have before you turned to Jesus as King?

John 18:33–38

³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” ³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸ Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him.

Why doesn't Jesus admit to setting Himself up as King in order that Pilate might more easily crucify Him?

What are the truths about which Jesus bears witness?

Why did Pilate find it so difficult to figure out what is truth?

Is it challenging to discover truth today as well? Where should we turn for truth?

John 19:12–16

¹² From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” ¹³ So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” ¹⁵ They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” ¹⁶ So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Why did Pilate crucify an innocent man?

What are some ways that we might value convenience over the truth or fear man rather than God?

Contrast Jesus and Pilate. Jesus made His decisions because He feared God. Pilate made His decision because he feared man. What were the results of their decisions? Identify one major area in which you are tempted most to fear man and not God.