

John 18:28-40

Verse 28

- After being questioned by Annas and the Caiaphas (the high priest), Jesus is taken to the Praetorium which is the governor's residence or headquarters in Jerusalem. Pilate's normal residence and headquarters was in Caesarea but would come to Jerusalem for big events such as the Jewish feasts, including the Passover.
- Since the Praetorium is a Gentile place entering it would have made them ceremonially unclean. The irony is that they don't want to be unclean or defiled for the Passover by going into this place of the Gentiles, while at the same time are lying, bring false accusations, and trying to kill the sinless Son of God, the true Passover Lamb.

Verses 29-32

- Pilate asks for the charges they are bringing against Jesus and the Jews emphasized that the charges they are bringing are serious or they would not have brought Jesus to him. Pilate tries to dismiss them and have them settle the matter among themselves and their law.
- The real reason they are bring Jesus to Pilate is made know when they state, "we are not permitted to put anyone to death." Capital punishment and bring death upon someone rested in the hands of the Romans.
- Jesus had spoken that His death would be death on a cross.
 - **John 3:14-15** As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; ¹⁵so that whoever ^[a]believes will in Him have eternal life.
 - **John 12:32-33** And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."³³ But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.

Verses 33-36 After hearing from the Jews, Pilate returns to Jesus to continue to question Him. Pilate asks if He is the King of the Jews. He is not a King like the kings of the earth as His kingdom is not of this world. Since His kingdom is not of the world, His followers will not fight physically to stop Him from being arrested and crucified. When Peter is zealous to defend Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus tells him to put away his sword for this reason (**John 18:10-11**). He is the Messiah that comes from out the Jewish people, but Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (**Rev 19:16**).

Verse 37

- Jesus tells Pilate that He is a king and then states that the reason for Him being born (by supernatural means, virgin birth) via the hypostatic union in the incarnation is to testify to the truth.
 - **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh, and [a]dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of [b]the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - **John 1:17** For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth [a]were realized through Jesus Christ.
- Everyone who is of the truth, hears His voice. The words of God are truth (**John 17:17**) and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth (**John 14:17**).
- To be of the truth, means that one has been born again by the truth which is by the sovereign hand of God making the truth of God come alive in our souls.
- This is like He spoke in **John 10** that His sheep hear His voice. The sheep are of the truth as they hear the effectual call of Christ, and the truth has set them free (**John 8:31-32, 36**)
 - **John 10:24-30** The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long ^[a]will You keep us in suspense? If You are ^[b]the Christ, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. ²⁶But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹^[c]My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. ³⁰I and the Father are ^[d]one."
- God is truth and He is the source of truth. God is truth so everything He says or does is truth.
- Truth cannot be found outside of God. Truth is from God and God alone. God is the source of truth as this cannot come from man.

Verses 38-40

- Pilate asks a question still being asked today and will continue until the last day: “what is truth?”
- Pilate then gives his verdict toward Jesus and declares that He is innocent and there is not guilt in Him.
- The Passover lamb was to be inspected to ensure that it was unblemished before it could be sacrificed. Jesus has been “inspected” and is declared unblemished, sinless, without fault which means that He is worthy to be the Passover Lamb.
- The Jewish people had a custom on Passover to release someone in remembrance of them being spared and set free regarding Passover and the exodus.
- Pilate knowing that Jesus is innocent, mentions Him as the One they can let go. However, their hatred for Jesus was so strong, they chose a hardened criminal to be set free over the perfect, holy, Son of God.
 - **Luke 23:13-25** Pilate summoned the chief priests and the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, “You brought this man to me as one who incites the people to rebellion, and behold, having examined Him before you, I have found no guilt in this man regarding the charges which you make against Him. ¹⁵ No, nor has Herod, for he sent Him back to us; and behold, nothing deserving death has been done by Him. ¹⁶ Therefore I will punish Him and release Him.” ¹⁷ [a]Now he was obliged to release to them at the feast one prisoner.]¹⁸ But they cried out all together, saying, “Away with this man, and release for us Barabbas!” ¹⁹ (He was one who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection made in the city, and for murder.) ²⁰ Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, ²¹ but they kept on calling out, saying, “Crucify, crucify Him!” ²² And he said to them the third time, “Why, what evil has this man done? I have found in Him no guilt *demanding* death; therefore I will punish Him and release Him.” ²³ But they were insistent, with loud voices asking that He be crucified. And their voices *began* to prevail. ²⁴ And Pilate pronounced sentence that their demand be granted. ²⁵ And he released the man they were asking for who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, but he delivered Jesus to their will.
 - **1 Corinthians 2:8** *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;
 - **Acts 4:25-28** who by the Holy Spirit, *through* the mouth of our father David Your servant, said, ‘Why did the [a]Gentiles rage, And the peoples devise futile things? ²⁶ ‘The kings of the earth [b]took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His [c]Christ.’²⁷ For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy [d]servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the [e]Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.
 - **Acts 2:23-24** this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of [a]godless men and put *Him* to death. ²⁴ [b]But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the [c]agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held [d]in its power.
- This is according to the eternal plan of redemption that was ordained before the foundation of the world. This speaks to compatibilism whereas it was ordained by God, but every action of man was done according to the desires of their heart and will.
- Barabbas means “son of the father.” The eternal only begotten Son of God the Father was crucified. We are like Barabbas as he was a sinner, guilty, and deserving of death. He deserved to suffer the justice, judgment, and wrath of God. Christ was crucified in place of Barabbas and Barabbas was set free. Christ (Son of the Father) died in place as the substitute for the elect (adopted sons of the Father).
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Jesus was innocent and without sin but was sentenced to death as was ordained in the eternal plan of redemption. He entered into His creation to testify to truth and everyone who is of the truth which are His sheep hears His voice. His sheep were guilty and deserved to die and suffer the wrath and judgment of the Father. However, Christ the eternal only begotten Son of God the Father died in place of His sheep as their substitute so they could become the adopted sons of the Father!

