

September 24, 2023

Jesus' Trial Before Pilate

John 18:28-40

After being questioned by Annas, the highest religious authority in Israel, Jesus is led bound to Pilate. Taking Jesus to Pilate shifts the focus from a theological to a political inquiry. The ruling religious authorities could not bring a sufficient charge against Jesus to execute Him. Delivering Jesus to Pilate is their attempt to have imperial Rome accomplish what they could not.

Additional Verses:

Deuteronomy 21:23

Matthew 23:25-29

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

2 Samuel 7

1 Corinthians 12:3

Outline:

1. The Hypocrisy

2. The Accusation

3. The Confession

4. The Substitution

Study Questions:

1. Why do the religious leaders take Jesus to Pilate? Why will they not enter Pilate's headquarters? How does this support Matthew 23:25-29?

2. Why does Pilate not immediately accept their accusation? Why do the religious leaders want Rome to execute Jesus? What theological point do they believe would be made if Jesus is crucified?

3. How is Jesus' kingdom different than an earthly kingdom? How does one enter Jesus' kingdom?

4. Why is the release of Barabbas ironic? What greater theological truth does Jesus' physical substitution for him lead us to understand?

5. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to God today?