

John 18: 28-40

Background: Jesus was just arrested by the Jews and some soldiers and was questioned by the high priest Caiaphas. Now he is being sent to a Roman official.

Joh 18:28 Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. Joh 18:29 So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?" Joh 18:30 "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you." Joh 18:31 Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." "But we have no right to execute anyone," the Jews objected. Joh 18:32 This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled. Joh 18:33 Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Joh 18:34 "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" Joh 18:35 "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" Joh 18:36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." Joh 18:37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." Joh 18:38 "What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. Joh 18:39 But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?" Joh 18:40 They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in a rebellion.

1. In verse 28, what were the Jews trying to avoid? What is the irony of this?
2. In verse 28, what did the Jews want to be able to do and why? What is the irony of this?
3. What is the significance of verse 1 Corinthians 5:7 below?
1Co 5:7 "Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast-- as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed."
4. What is the irony of verse 29?
5. Why did the Jews respond the way they did in verse 30?
6. What does verse 32 teach about Jesus?
7. In verse 35, what is Pilate having a difficult time finding?
8. In verse 36, what kingdom is Jesus talking about?
9. In verse 37, is Jesus clear about his position?
10. Thinking about history, how does a king or ruler affect a persons personal life? What does a good king provide for his people?
11. In verse 37, why did Jesus come into the world?
12. According to verse 37 who will come into Jesus' kingdom?
13. In verse 38, how is Pilate's question similar to modern philosophy?
14. Looking at verse 38, did Pilate find good reason to condemn Jesus? Then why did he?