

### **A Home Group for you?**

A new group is forming this week. Are you interested in a Home Group? Contact us through <https://www.trinityonline.org/ministries/home-groups/>

### **WHEN WAS IT FOR YOU?**

When you first learn of Jesus being on trial? What was it like?

### **LEARNING FROM GOD'S WORD**

We can learn so much from every page of Scripture. This week we are examining the trial of Jesus before Pilate. The author, John, was selective and insightful in his record. Read through John 18:28-40 and consider these comments and questions. Please remember to look beyond the mere facts of the trial. Learning should move us deeper in our love and trust of God.

Who and what is the driving force of Jesus' trial?

Besides Jesus, there are two main forces at work, the Jews and Pilate (Rome). They do not like each other and are reluctant to cooperate. Why are they working together? What are the Jews attempting to do through Pilate?

How were the Jews working for and protecting their own interests in this passage? (28-31)

What accusation against Jesus did the Jews bring to the Roman authorities? Why didn't they handle the issue themselves?

The Sanhedrin did have the power to put people to death. What method would they have used? How does this coincide with Jesus' prophecy in 12:32-33?

What was Pilate's lead question? Why would he ask this question? (I.e. What was his source of information for this question?)

How did Jesus answer and explain His answer? How was this relevant to Pilate (Rome) and what was Pilate's decision? (33-38)

Jesus included in His answer, "If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews." How was this relevant to the governor of Rome? (36)

Jesus' answer to Pilate included some unexpected statements. Jesus spoke to His birth and purpose, i.e. "to testify to the truth" (37). What did He mean? What was His purpose and the implications of that purpose? (cf. John 17:1-8)

When Jesus was before Pilate, who was guiding the conversation? What was the result of the questioning?

Pilate was unconvinced of the accusations of the Sanhedrin. Why didn't he just release Jesus? (38)

From this passage, what do we learn about Jesus and His purpose?

What do we learn about people of 'the world' and their response to God?

### **HOW MIGHT THIS INFLUENCE HOW I THINK AND ACT THIS WEEK?**

Two opposing groups worked to condemn Jesus. Pilate was reluctant to condemn Jesus, but turned to others in the world to make his decision. (Cf. "Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?") What are some ways that we are looking to the world to make decisions for us?

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

What do you learn about Jesus from this passage? How should His thinking and purpose be ours?

We can see a great incongruity of the Jews worrying about their "cleanness" (28) while scheming to have Jesus executed. What does this tell us about people (including us)? How is it that we sometimes act this way?

This passage reveals how a group of people influenced others to make terrible decisions. What are some ways that the world is influencing our direction and decisions? How is mob mentality or group think affecting our lives?

### **PRAYER NEEDS**

Jesus taught us that prayer is coming to our Heavenly Father with our needs, concerns, and requests. Through prayer, we declare our dependence on God with everything in our life. Please join us in asking our Father for some needs of the Trinity family.

- Please pray for the many families who have lost loved ones
- Please pray for God to guide our Elders, Directors, and Pastors
- Please pray for teamwork and unity as we love and serve our church family and community
- Pray for the Micah House team as they help students and share the good news