

- I) V18-28 INTRO: Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium and it was early morning
 - a) BACKGROUND: Jesus' enemies had desired Jesus to be put to death for some time
 - 1) They had been enraged over two things Jesus had done: Healing paralytic and equal to God
 - 2) Jn 5:16-18 For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and *sought to kill Him*, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working". Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself *equal* (in quality, substance, and nature) with God.
 - 3) These two sins were capital offences: Exodus 31:12-15, Lev 24
- II) ON TOP OF BREAKING SABBATH He was guilty of blasphemy
 - a) Blasphemy: the defiant irreverence of God
 - 1) Jesus equated Himself with God, thus was blasphemous
 - 2) This belief became their obsession and the was the chief offense that drove them
- III) THEY HAVE FINALLY GOTTEN THEIR WISH: Jesus has been betrayed and brought to them
 - a) SADLY: One of His own trusted apostles had betrayed Him into the hands of His enemies
 - 1) Mt 26:14-16 One of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him
- IV) AT THE PASSOVER SUPPER: Jesus told Judas to proceed with his plan
 - a) Judas left, received a cohort of Roman soldiers and some Temple Officers and had betrayed Him
 - 1) After yielding Himself to arrest in the Garden, He first went to Annas and then Caiaphas
 - 2) He was before Annas until early morning, perhaps 3 a.m. and then taken to Caiaphas
- V) WHILE BEFORE CAIAPHAS: The elders of the people both chief priests and scribes came together
 - a) They brought in false witnesses, but their testimonies did not agree
 - 1) Mt 26:63-66 The high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! "What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death."
- VI) AFTER HIS SELF-INCRIMINATION: Jesus was beaten, humiliated and reviled
 - a) Mt 26:67-68 They *spat* in His face and beat Him; and others struck *Him* with the palms of their hands, saying, "Prophesy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"
 - 1) THIS IS: Where we pick up our story: Jesus has been led from Caiaphas to the Praetorium
- VII) V28 THEN: They led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium and it was early morning
 - a) Lu 23:1 says The whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate
 - 1) It is now around 6 a.m. and they have led Jesus to the Praetorium, Pilate's official residence
- VIII) NOTICE: They themselves did not go into the Praetorium lest they should be defiled
 - a) They could go into a courtyard of a Gentile, but not into the dwelling place
 - 1) WHY: Gentiles used leaven, and leaven resulted in ritual defilement: It was Passover
 - 2) Defilement would last for seven days, which would effectively eliminate them from Passover

- I) INTERESTING: They were pressing for the death of Jesus but were concerned with defilement
 - a) This is an incredible expression of religious hypocrisy: Christmas and Easter breaks, partying
 - 1) I would attend weddings, baptisms, even funerals and party afterwards

- II) V29-30 PILATE: Then went out to them and said What accusation do you bring against this Man
 - a) POLITICAL CHARGE: He is an *evildoer*
 - 1) Lu 23:2 They began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow *perverting the nation*, and *forbidding* to pay taxes to Caesar, *saying* that He Himself is Christ, *a King*."

- III) V31-32 THEN: Pilate said to them *You take Him* and judge Him according to *your law*
 - a) Pilate is not convinced that Jesus is guilty of the charges and puts it on their shoulders
 - 1) NOW: Their hearts are revealed: They are looking for an execution and will not settle for less

- IV) THIS ALSO: Results in Jesus' crucifixion, which was the Roman form of execution
 - a) Crucifixion was prophesied as the way Messiah would die
 - 1) Ps 22:16-17 For dogs have surrounded Me; the assembly of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet. I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.

- V) V33-38 THEN: Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus and said to Him Are You the King
 - a) Pilate wants to determine if Jesus is a political king or a Jewish, Messianic king
 - 1) This will help him to decide if he should continue this trial or simply release Him

- VI) V34-35 Jesus answered him Are you speaking *for yourself* on this, or did others tell you this about
 - a) Are you curious, or have you been fed information concerning Me?
 - 1) KEY: This is more than a question: it is an appeal because Pilate's eternity is at stake
 - 2) Pilate makes it clear: This isn't an issue I am interested in! I am a governor, not a priest

- VII) V36 JESUS ANSWERED: My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world
 - a) Jesus' kingdom consists of His decisively conquering sin in the lives of His people
 - 1) It is not a threat to Israel or Rome, but is spiritual in nature
 - 2) Ro 14:17 the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

- VIII) V37 PILATE: Therefore said to Him Are You a king then? Jesus answered You say rightly
 - a) You are correct, and the reason I came is to bear witness of truth because it sets people free
 - 1) My message reaches the inner core of people and delivers them from the bondage of their lives

- IX) NOTICE: Everyone *who is of the truth* hears My voice
 - a) It is by truth alone that I influence the minds and govern the manners of my subjects
 - 1) Those who have become My followers hear what I say in the deepest portion of their hearts
 - 2) Jn 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
 - 3) Jn 8:47 He who is of God hears God's words *therefore* you do not hear because you are not of God

- X) V38 PILATE SAID TO HIM: *What is truth*
 - a) I have heard so many philosophies over a lifetime of government service: *What is truth?*
 - 1) He had no interest in pursuing dialogue with Jesus and found Him to be innocent

- I) **FINALLY:** In these verses, three things about Pilate are revealed
 - a) **V29-31 FIRST:** He refused personal responsibility about making a decision concerning Jesus
 - 1) **FACT:** People are held responsible concerning how they view Him
 - 2) **Mt 16:13-16** When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some *say* John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

- II) **V33-34 SECOND:** He sought a way out of any entanglement with Jesus, limiting accountability
 - a) **FACT:** Once you have encountered Him, you are held accountable for your response
 - 1) **Jn 12:48** He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

- III) **V37-38 THIRD:** He rejected Jesus' invitation to investigate His claims more closely
 - a) **We must not close our hearts to investigating His claims:** Jn 14:6
 - 1) **Ps 34:8** Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!