

The Gospel of John SS ~ March 16, 2008

John 18:28-40

I. Pilate Questions the Jews (18:28-32)

1. Why do the Jews respond to Pilate's question in 18:29 in an evasive manner? After reading 18:19-24, should we be surprised by their answer?

2. What is the relationship between John's authorial comment in 18:32 and the Jews' cry for Jesus' execution in 18:31? In other words, why is it appropriate for John to insert this note here?

II. Pilate Questions "the King of the Jews" (18:33-38a)

1. Why does Jesus ask Pilate to disclose the source of his labeling him "the King of the Jews"? With this title in mind, what appeared to be the charge that the Jews were trying to level against Jesus?

2. In light of 18:36, how should we view Jesus' kingdom? What is its relationship to this world? Is there one?

3. When Jesus states his kingly purpose, namely, "to bear witness to the truth," how should we define "truth" and understand the nature of Jesus' mission?

4. How should we take Pilate's famous reply to Jesus, "What is truth?"?

III. Barabbas or Jesus? (18:38b-40)

1. What is so ironic about the release of Barabbas and the crucifixion of Jesus?

IV. Application

1. Christians can rest securely in the sovereignty of God in every situation.
2. The Scriptures are trustworthy. Christians must truly believe what God has spoken in his revealed Word to us.
3. Christians do not have to worry about worldly matters and concerns in order to be a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.
4. Christians should speak the truth, contend for the truth, and be the truth.
5. Christians must strive to regain a view of Christ as King and not simply proclaim him as a "big brother" figure or "hippie" who's constantly laboring for world peace.