

The Trial Before Pilate



John 18:28-19:15

- Before the Jewish leaders had Jesus arrested in the garden, they had determined to kill Him (John 11:47-54).
- There were three stages in both the Jewish “trial” and the Roman “trial.”
- Stage two of the Jewish trial took place before Caiaphas and whatever members of the Sanhedrin the high priest could assemble at the hour of the night (Matt. 26:57-68).
- The three stages of the Roman trial were the first appearance before Pilate (John 18:28-34), the appearance before Herod (Luke 23:6-12), and the second appearance before Pilate (John 18:39-19:6).
- Pontius Pilate was in office from AD 26-36 and was not greatly liked by the Jews.
- The Roman trial of Jesus is a dramatic picture of indecisive compromise.

1. Jesus was led into the palace or judgment hall (18:28).

2. Movement 1: to Jesus’ accusers – to hear their charges (v. 29-32).

A. The insolent charge.

- Men may reject and hate Christ; they may judge Christ not worthy to be the Lord of their lives (John 8:24; 12:48; Heb. 3:12).

B. Pilate tried to evade his responsibility.

C. The hearts of the religionists were closed; this was their problem.

- Religionists reject Jesus because they do not want to hear Him (Acts 28:27; James 4:4).

3. Movement 2: to Jesus – to hear His defense (v 33-38).

A. Jesus’ challenge to Pilate (v. 34).

- A person is personally responsible for his verdict about Jesus (John 1:11-12).
- People usually choose to follow the man of power and fame and wealth over the man of love and morality and peace (John 5:43-44; Matt. 15:18-19; Luke 6:45; 8:15; Rom. 10:10).

B. Jesus' kingdom is not of this world, not of the physical dimension of being (Rom. 14:17; Heb. 1:8; 2Pet. 3:13-14; Rev. 11:15).

4. Movement 3: back to the people – to declare Jesus' innocence (v. 38-40).

- **Man chooses the path of power and fame, wealth and possessions (Isa. 48:22; 59:8; Luke 2:13-14; Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:14; Col. 1:20).**
- **Note how the people (the world) rejected Pilate's offer of a substitute for Jesus (Rom. 5:8; 1 Pet. 3:18).**

5. Movement 4: back to Jesus – to flog Jesus (Ch. 19, v. 1-3).

A. Men persecute and attack, crudely mock and scoff at His name, His person, and His Word (Matt. 5:11; 10:17; John 15:30; 16:2).

B. Men live hypocritical lives, professing to know and follow Him; but when out in the world, they live as the world (Mark 7:6; Titus 1:16).

- **Flogging: Jesus was stripped and beaten with a whip.**