



JOHN

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

18:28-40

Scandal



John 18:28-40

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"



John 18:28-40

³⁰ They answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.” ³¹ Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” The Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.” ³² This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.



John 18:28-40

³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?”



John 18:28-40

³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” ³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born



John 18:28-40

and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸ Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover.



John 18:28-40

So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?”⁴⁰ They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.



“The conscience of unconverted men is a very curious part of their moral nature. While in some cases it becomes hardened, seared, and dead, until it feels nothing; in others it becomes morbidly scrupulous about the lesser matters of religion. It is no uncommon thing to find people excessively particular about the observance of trifling forms and outward ceremonies, while they are the slaves of degrading sins and detestable immoralities. Robbers and murderers in some countries are extremely strict about confession,

- J.C Ryle

“He did not aim at establishing a temporal power, to be supported by armies and maintained by taxes. The only dominion He exercised was over men’s hearts, and the only weapons that His subjects employed were spiritual weapons. A kingdom which required neither money nor servants for its support, was one of which the Roman emperors need not be afraid. In the highest sense it was a kingdom “not of this world.”

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Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me

John 14:6



“But perhaps it was asked wistfully also, from a lifetime’s struggle as a professional politician, steeped in the daily compromises, the prudential balancing of forces, the application of ruthless power, that half-light world of greys and polka dots where people grope wearily for truth and the soul shrivels and dies. Did Pilate, as his destiny for a fleeting second hung in the balances,

- Bruce Milne

catch a glimpse in Jesus of a truer, purer, brighter world? We cannot be sure. What is certain is that if the moment came it also passed. The forgiving moment slipped by as Pilate turned on his heel to report his decision to the Jewish leaders.”

- Bruce Milne

...he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up.



Matthew 27:18

“In all this, Pilate, not for the first time in his political career, sadly miscalculated. If this is his winning card, then Pilate’s opponents have their ace. The crowd are ready. This crowd wants no part in any ‘kingdom of truth’ that will not pit itself against the spears and swords of the hated Roman occupiers; no part with a king who would rebuke their sins and expose their hearts’ rebellion against the living God before they could truly express his rule in their society.

- Bruce Milne

So they scream their rejection. ‘No, not him! Give us Barrabas!’ in a moment Pilate’s clever plan shatters before his eyes. The governor is hoist by his own petard. ‘Having failed to acknowledge the truth he is in the power of the lie.’ Though Pilate will make token attempts to wriggle free, in fact he has lost, trapped in the coils of his own presumed wisdom. Jesus is doomed.”

- Bruce Milne

...God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16-17

