

I. Introduction: Pilate was afraid when he heard Jesus was the Son of God and tried to determine if He was divine, but soon he had to choose between loyalty to Jesus or Caesar.

II. King Jesus on Trial (John 19:8-16).

A. The King's Identity (vv. 8-9).

1. Pilate was fearful because Jesus was called the Son of God by the Jewish people, so he interrogated Him to find out whether Jesus was a god or not.

B. The King's Authority (vv. 10-12).

1. Pilate attempted to threaten Jesus with crucifixion if He didn't answer him, but He reminded Pilate that all authority comes from God.

C. The King's Presentation (vv. 13-14).

1. Pilate took Jesus out to the people to make an official judgment, sarcastically presenting Jesus as their King and pretending to care about justice.

D. The King's Rejection (vv. 15-16).

1. Pilate brought Jesus out to make a final judgment and declared Him as their king, but they called for His execution instead, and swore allegiance to Rome.

III. Conclusion: Pilate eventually caved to the pressure of public approval and handed Jesus over to die rather than risk being ousted from his position as the Roman prefect.

Questions About: King Jesus on Trial

1. Who is your king? Is Jesus the highest authority in your life? Who or what have you pledged your highest loyalty to in the world? Your country? Job? Family? Career? Hobby?
2. Why was Pilate afraid when Jesus was referred to as the Son of God? (**John 19:8-9**) How did Romans superstitiously believe in divine men? What title had some of the Caesars been given?
3. What was Pilate trying to ascertain with his question, “Where are you from?” (**John 19:9**) Why did Jesus not answer him? How had Jesus already answered this question? (**John 18:36-37**)
4. How did Pilate threaten Jesus with his authority? (**John 19:10-12**) What did Jesus’ answer reveal about Pilate’s authority? (**v. 11**) Why was Jesus not intimidated by Pilate?
5. Who was the one that Jesus said had the “greater sin”? (**John 11:49-50; 18:13-14**) How did the Jews threaten Pilate? (**John 19:12**) What did the phrase “friend of Caesar” imply?
6. Why did Pilate bring out his official judgment seat? (**John 19:13-14**) What formal title did Pilate confer on Jesus? (**v. 14**) Why did Pilate say this to the Jews? How did he taunt them with it?
7. How did the Jews officially reject their King? (**John 19:15-16**) Who were they willing to swear loyalty to instead? (**v. 15**) Why did Pilate not believe their profession of loyalty to Caesar?
8. What would you have done in Pilate’s situation? Will you swear loyalty to Jesus or someone or something else in this world? Is there anything that competes for God’s allegiance in your life?

Prayer

1. Pray that God would help you to do the right thing rather than what is convenient.
2. Ask Jesus to help you follow Him as the King of your life and forsake all other authorities.