

John 18:28-19:16 – 30 August 2026

“When Confronted With Jesus”

Introduction

*In 1st half of John 18 w/ His 11 disciples, Jesus is *arrested* by the Jews to be taken to death

*It's a comparison of *Jesus* prayed up & walking in the Spirit while *Peter* didn't pray & fails in the flesh

*As we pick up in John 18:28, Jesus has been tried before Annas, Caiaphas & the Sanhedrin & is being *taken to Pontius Pilate* early in the morning

*This is a great chance to answer the question, “What should *we* do when confronted w/ Jesus”

Today we answer 5 significant questions that arise when confronted with Jesus

1st Question – What's the accusation about Jesus? (18:28-32) [1st time before Pilate]

Read 18:28 – Is He an evildoer or am I?

1. How ironic that the Jews were worried to not defile themselves by entering a Gentile building

- a. They're in the process of unlawfully condemning someone to death
 - b. Jesus said they strain at a gnat & swallow a camel (Matt 23:24)
2. They didn't want defiled b/c their Passover Meal was *yet to come*
- a. With so many people in Jerusalem, they could eat the Passover any time of night or day
 - b. Jesus ate at evening of Nisan 14 (last night)
 - c. These Jews are eating today (still Nisan 14)

Read 18:29-32

- 1. The Jews say that according to them, Jesus hasn't just broken Jewish Law but also Roman
- 2. Luke records (23:2) the accusation Jesus forbid to pay Roman taxes & says He's Christ a king
- 3. There's the sense here the Jews didn't want Pilate as judge, they just want him as executioner
- 4. The Jews were *active* in Jesus' death & the Romans *passive*, but they were both complicit

2nd Question – Who is Jesus? (18:33-36)

Read 18:33-35

1. Pilate took the Jews accusation to Jesus
2. Jesus' response is to say, "How did you come up with this thought about whether I'm a king?"
 - a. Same as when Jesus asked the Rich Young Ruler, "Why do you call Me good?"
 - b. It's not a denial of the claim; it's a focus on if you're asking the question from the heart
3. Many read the bible & say, "Jesus was a good teacher but no more"
 - a. Not only did He not leave room for that, even the Jews knew He claimed to be God
 - b. How would telling people to be nice to each other get a man crucified? (Trilemma)

Read 18:36

1. Jesus knew what kingdom He belonged to
 - a. Knowing what kingdom you belong to gives you your master, mission and mates
 - b. Yes, Jesus is a king, but they couldn't understand what kingdom He was king over

2. Many of us are fighting hard, but what kingdom are you fighting for?
 - a. Are you fighting to maintain status or a certain reputation?
 - b. Or are you fighting to bring souls into eternal life?

3rd Question – What is truth? (18:37-38)

Read 18:37

1. Pilate correctly infers that Jesus is a king
2. Now Jesus explains that His kingdom is the kingdom of truth
 - a. Jesus has come to call those that would hear and receive the truth

Read 18:38

1. We know Pilate wasn't asking to get an answer
 - a. If he wanted an answer he would have been given the answer in (Read) John 14:5-6
 - b. If he wanted an answer he would have been given the same as Nico (Read John 3:9, 14-15)

2. Notice Pilate speaks of Jesus innocence
 - a. In Jesus' arrest we see He went *willingly*, now we're reminded He also went *innocently*
 - b. Thief of the cross – “Jesus has done nothing amiss” (Luke 23:41)
 - c. Judas “I betrayed innocent blood” (Matt 27:4)
 - d. Herod found no fault in Him (Luk 23:15)
 - e. Pilate's wife “Have nothing to do with this righteous man” (Matt 27:19)
 - f. Centurion at the cross – “Certainly this was a righteous man, God's Son” (Luke 23:47)
3. At this point Pilate heard Jesus was Galilean, sent Him to Herod who sent Him back (vs 39)

4th Question – (The unspoken question) What should I do about Jesus? (18:39-19:6)

Read 18:39-40 [2nd time before Pilate]

1. Having come to Pilate the 2nd time, he seeks to release Jesus, but the people refuse

2. Barabbas is a fleshly picture of Jesus
 - a. Barabbas *means Son of the Father* & Jesus *is* the Son of the Father
 - b. He was in prison for insurrection against Rome, robbery & murder
 - c. Jesus was in prison for insurrection against sin and giving life

Read 19:1-4

1. Pilate is actually beating & mocking Him thinking it might satisfy the Jews to release Him
2. What a great picture of wearing humanity's sin with the crown of thorns
 - a. Adam sinned, the ground cursed to bring thorns, humanity was driven out from God's to die
 - b. Jesus bore our sin wearing the crown of thorns to bring humanity back into God's presence to live
3. In this whipping, they placed pieces of bone & metal to rip open the skin when used
 - a. Many people died simply from the flogging

4. Irony: they're sentencing Him to death for a claim that's actually true (He's the king), except they don't actually believe it

Read 19:5-6

1. The Psalmist asks, "Who is this king of glory" (Psm 24:8), "What is His name & what is His Son's name" (Prov 30: 4 says)
2. Now we know His name – it's Jesus
3. Already there was no form or comeliness that we should desire Him, no outward beauty...
4. This plain man has been beaten so severely He no longer longed like a man
5. As He stands there, the only true words that Pilate truly said were, "Behold the Man"
6. Jesus, He is *the* man, He is the true and rightful king, both of the earth and this universe, He is the King of Glory

5th Question – Who is my authority? (19:7-16)

Read 19:7-9

1. B/c they insisted that Jesus must die, they give Pilate this extra info of Jesus being God's Son
 - a. Pilate is now concerned like/ his wife
2. The question implies, "What is your source of authority" Is there someone that sent you here
 - a. Pilate was given answer & needed no more
 - b. Jesus already told him that He's the king of the kingdom of truth that's not of this world

Read 19:10-11

1. Pilate is *passively* acting in the position he was given; Judas & Caiaphas *actively* sought this situation
2. Jesus wasn't changed by any earthly authority, He acted on the authority of God regardless
3. Notice Jesus is showing a difference between Pilate & His own authority
 - a. Pilate's had positional authority – acquired
 - b. Jesus's had personal authority - inherent

Read 19:12-13

1. This shows Pilate was just a puppet of Rome
2. He didn't have inherent power, but had to do the will of Caesar that was over him in authority
3. God gives us inherent power to obey God's will & to be free from all that would contradict it

Read 19:14-16

1. Sixth hour time difficulty
 - a. Four possible explanations & as long as one is correct, that's all that matters
 - b. 1st – John used Roman time, it's 6am – unlikely b/c John 4 says 6th hour meaning noon
 - c. 2nd – John speaks in general of whole event
 - d. 3rd – copyist error
 - e. 4th – John said 'about' & Mark was precise
2. “We have no king but Caesar”
 - a. The Jews are coerced by Caesar's authority
 - b. They've abandoned God's authority & want to simply retain their own authority under Rome

Conclusion

So have you been confronted with Jesus? What should we help other people come face to face with?

1. **What is the accusation about Jesus?**

- a. Is He the evildoer, or are we? It's us

2. **Who is Jesus?**

- a. He is God from heaven who's come on a rescue mission to bring us out of this world

3. **What is truth?**

- a. Jesus is truth & confessing & believing that His death paid our debt is the only way out

4. **What should I do about Jesus?**

- a. We cannot ignore or dismiss Him, we must confess Him as our personal Savior

5. **Who is your authority?**

- a. We cannot bend to the world's pressure or authority but submit to Jesus as Lord of my life