

John 18:28-36

John 18:28-32 *“(28) Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover. (29) Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? (30) They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee. (31) Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death: (32) That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die.”*

- A. They didn't want to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover (**Numbers 9:1-14**).
 - 1. Amazingly, they think that false accusations and murderous desire doesn't defile them (**Isaiah 1:10-20** and **Jeremiah 7:8-11**).
 - 2. People cannot scripturally think they can do evil and stand acceptably before God at the same time (**Proverbs 15:8** and **Micah 3:10-11**).
 - 3. One cannot worship God even if there is an issue between that person and a brother or sister in Christ (**Matthew 5:23-24**).
- B. The Jews said it was not lawful to put any man to death, yet the Law of Moses certainly permitted the death penalty (**Exodus 21:15-17**, **Exodus 22:19**, **Exodus 31:14-15**, **Leviticus 20:2**, **Leviticus 20:10-13**, **Leviticus 24:17**, etc.).
 - 1. The Jews had already stated that Jesus was worthy of death under the Law of Moses (**John 10:30-33**; cf. **Leviticus 24:16**) and they will say so again (**John 19:7**).
 - 2. It could have been that they were referring to Roman law as they were under Roman rule at this time (**Acts 25:16**).
 - 3. The saying of Jesus was fulfilled when the Jews delivered Him to the Gentiles to be killed (**Matthew 20:19** and **Luke 18:32-33**).

John 18:33-35 *“(33) Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews? (34) Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me? (35) Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?”*

- A. Pilate wanted to know whether or not Jesus was the “King of the Jews” (**Mark 15:1-2**).
 - 1. Jesus was the King of Israel (**Isaiah 9:6-7**, **Jeremiah 23:5**, **Zechariah 9:9**, **Luke 1:32-33**, **John 1:48-49**, and **John 12:15**).
 - 2. However, His reign is not limited to Israel (**Daniel 7:13-14**, **John 17:1-2**, **Ephesians 1:20-23**, and **Philippians 2:5-11**).
- B. Jesus questioned whether or not Pilate is judging based on hearsay (**Proverbs 18:13**).
 - 1. Pilate denied being part of a Jewish plan against Jesus (**Luke 23:13-14**).
 - 2. Pilate put the blame on the shoulders of the Jews and specifically on the chief priests (**Matthew 27:11-14** and **Mark 15:1**).

John 18:36 *“Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.”*

- A. The kingdom of Christ is not an earthly kingdom (**Hebrews 12:22-23; 28**).
 - 1. The kingdom of God is not carnal, but spiritual (**Luke 17:20-21** and **Romans 14:17**).
 - 2. Those converted to Christ are added to the kingdom (**Colossians 1:12-14**).
- B. A physical kingdom would be defended by carnal warfare (**I Chronicles 20:1**).
 - 1. If Jesus wanted a physical battle, He certainly could have destroyed any earthly army (**Matthew 26:52-53**; cf. **II Kings 19:35**).
 - a. What army could defeat even just the words of Jesus (**Hebrews 11:3**; cf. **John 1:1-3; 10**)?
 - b. Even the winds and water are at His control (**Luke 8:22-25**).
 - 2. Rather than destroying lives, our Lord’s goal was/is to save souls (**Luke 9:56**).
 - 3. We, as soldiers of our Lord, are not engaged in a carnal war (**Ephesians 6:10-17**, **II Corinthians 10:3-4**, and **I Timothy 6:12**).