Agape House of Worship
Wednesday Bible Study – September 9, 2026

Study Series: THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE: A Journey through the Gospel of John
Part 31: Jesus Before Pilate: Truth on Trial, Kingdoms Collide, Truth and Power Teacher: Pastor Kip Wright
John 18:28-40, John 19:1-16 NIV

Transfer to Pilate John 18:28-31 NIV Jesus Before Pilate
28 Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early
morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the
Passover. 29 So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?" 30 "If he were
not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you." 31 Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and
judge him by your own law." "But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected. 32 This took place to fulfill
what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

Who is Caiaphas? Why is Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin so deeply against Jesus? Why are they so adamant about Jesus dying? Why didn't they just stone him themselves? Why was Pilate initially not interested in getting involved in this case?

Joseph ben Caiaphas – High Priest, appointed by Annas (Father-in-Law), presided over the Sanhedrin trial of Jesus
Sanhedrin "the Council"- the supreme Jewish legislative and judicial council in ancient Israel, composed of 71 members including a high priest who served as its president. Factions: Included the Sadducees (chief priests and aristocratic family heads) and the Pharisees (scribes and legal experts). Persecution of Early Apostles: Tried early Christian leaders like Peter, John, and Stephen for preaching about Jesus.
Praetorium – Roman Governor's palace/headquarters
Ceremonial Uncleanness – a Jewish person who entered the house of a Gentile would become ritually unclean
No right to execute anyone – The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus without even having a formal indictment
Type of death – Matthew 20:18-19 **18** "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death **19** and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and **crucified**. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

33 Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" 34 "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" 35 "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" 36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place." 37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." 38 "What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. 39 But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?" 40 They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

A case study in miscommunication and frustration – a dysfunctional discourse

Pilate - *"Are you the king of the Jews"*	**Jesus** - *"Is that your own idea", "or did others talk to you about me?"*
Pilate - *"Am I a Jew", "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?*	**Jesus** - *"My kingdom is not of this world" If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."*
Pilate - *"You are a king, then!*	**Jesus** - *"You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."*
Pilate - *"What is truth?"*	**Jesus -** *No chance to answer*
Pilate - *"I find no basis for a charge against him. 39 But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?"*	**Jewish leaders/people -** *"No, not him! Give us Barabbas!"*

Why is Pilate asking if Jesus is a king (political/military/natural vs spiritual/heavenly/supernatural)? How would that affect him? Why is Jesus being so evasive in his answers to Pilate? Why did Pilate stop the discussion with Jesus and go back to the Jewish crowd?

John 19 New International Version - Jesus sentenced to be crucified
19 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. [2] The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe [3] and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face. [4] Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." [5] When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" [6] As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him." [7] The Jewish leaders insisted, "**We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God**." [8] **When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid,** [9] and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. [10] "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" [11] Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

What is flogging/scourging? Why did the soldiers go to such an extreme to torture and mock Jesus? How many times did Pilate try to get out of this situation with Jesus? Why did Pilate become afraid? Why did Pilate think he had power over Jesus?

Verse 7 refers to Leviticus 24:16 NKJV [16] And whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name *of the Lord*, he shall be put to death.

Verse 8 Matthew 27:19 NLT [19] Just then, as Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him this message: "Leave that innocent man alone. I suffered through a terrible nightmare about him last night."

[12] From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, **you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."** [13] When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). [14] It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. [15] But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. **"We have no king but Caesar,"** the chief priests answered. [16] Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

Why did the Jewish leaders respond to Pilate this way? Why do they invoke Caesar's name? What is the judge's seat?

Judge's seat - Gabbatha ("Elevated place" or "high place") Gabbatha holds significant theological importance as the site of Jesus' condemnation. It represents the **intersection of divine sovereignty and human authority**. Pilate, a Roman governor, sat in judgment over Jesus, the Son of God, highlighting the tension between earthly power and divine purpose. Despite Pilate's authority, the events at Gabbatha unfolded according to God's redemptive plan, leading to the crucifixion and subsequent resurrection of Jesus.

Day of Preparation (biblehub.com) - appears in the Gospel accounts to describe the day before the Sabbath. In many passages, it is the day on which certain preparations were made-especially when that Sabbath coincided with significant feasts such as Passover. The time set aside for readying food, domestic needs, and pious tasks before the Sabbath rest.

Matthew 27:24-25 NIV [24] When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" [25] All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"