

John 18:28-40 **Jesus on trial before Pilate – Herod - Pilate**

Jewish Counsel sent Jesus to Pilate for the death penalty

28 Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover.

Pilate confirmed it was the Death Penalty they sought

29 Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" 30 They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you." 31 Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," 32 that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

Pilate questioned Jesus

33 Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this about Me?" 35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." 37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." 38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.

Offer to release Jesus or Barabbas

39 "But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" 40 Then they all cried again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

The Jewish Counsel delivered Jesus to Pilate for the death sentence.

- ✚ Early in the morning, all the chief priests, scribes and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. [Matthew 27:1-2, Mark 15:1, Luke 23:1, John 18:28]
- ✧ It seems obvious at this point that Jesus and His disciples ate the Passover Supper a day ahead of the time the Chief Priests, Scribes, and Elders were to eat theirs.
- ✧ It must also be noted that every Feast of Yehowah was called a Sabbath as well as the Seventh day of the week. [Leviticus 16:29-31, 23:24, 26-32, 33-38, 39, 25:1-22]
- ✧ The feast of Passover is a Sabbath day of rest when no work is to be done no matter what day of the week it falls on. [Leviticus 23:4-8, Numbers 28:16-18, 25, Deuteronomy 16:8]
- ✚ Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you." Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "**It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,**" that

the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die. [\[John 18:29-32\]](#)

- ✧ Here they openly reveal that it is definitely the **death penalty** they are seeking for Jesus, certainly not justice or righteousness. [\[John 18:31\]](#)
- ✧ However they certainly were fulfilling the prediction of Jesus. [\[Matthew 20:18-19, 26:1-2, John 3:14, 12:32-33\]](#)
- ✧ And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King." [\[Luke 23:2\]](#)
- ✧ Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "**Are You the King of the Jews?**" [\[Matthew 27:11, Mark 15:2, Luke 23:3, John 18:33\]](#)
- ✧ Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this about Me?" [\[John 18:34\]](#)
- ✧ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" [\[John 18:35\]](#)
- ✧ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." [\[John 18:36\]](#)
- ✧ Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" [\[John 18:37\]](#)
- ✧ Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." [\[John 18:37, Matthew 27:11, Mark 15:2, Luke 23:3\]](#)
- ✧ Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" [\[John 18:37\]](#)
- ✧ So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man." [\[Luke 23:4, John 18:38\]](#)
- ✧ But they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place." [\[Luke 23:5, John 18:38\]](#)
- ✧ And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place." He answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" And He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly. [\[Matthew 27:12-14, Mark 15:3-5, Luke 23:5\]](#)

Pilate sent Jesus to Herod

- ✧ When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. [\[Luke 23:6-7\]](#)
- ✧ Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. [\[Luke 23:8-10\]](#)
- ✧ Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other. [\[Luke 23:11-12\]](#)

Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate who made a pitiful attempt to free Jesus

- ✧ Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. I will therefore chastise Him and release Him." [\[Luke 23:13-17\]](#)

Offer to release prisoner of the people's choice – Jesus or Barabbas – Wife's Advice

- ✧ Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ the King of the Jews?" For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy. [\[Matthew 27:15-18, Mark 15:6-10, John 18:39\]](#)
- ✧ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him." [\[Matthew 27:19\]](#)

Barabbas chosen at demand of Chief Priests – Jesus to be Crucified

- ✧ But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!" When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, **he took water and washed his hands** before the multitude, saying, "**I am innocent of the blood of this just Person.** You see to it." And all the people answered and said, "**His blood be on us and on our children.**" Then he released Barabbas to them; and **when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.** [\[Matthew 27:20-26, Mark 15:11-15, Luke 23:18-25, John 18:40\]](#)