

March 9, 2008
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Final Steps of Jesus: The Trial John 18:28 – 40

29So 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," the Jews objected. **32**This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled. **36**Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." **37**"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." **38**"What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him.

Jesus' trial glorified Him in two ways:

1. It proved who He was.
2. It defined what He came to do.

Facing our own trials: 1 Peter 2:21 – 23

21To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

22"He committed no sin,

and no deceit was found in his mouth." **23**When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

Small Group Leader & Personal Bible Study

Memory Verse: John 14:6

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

Daily Bible Meditation:

- Day 1 – John 18:28-40
- Day 2 – Mark 15:1-15
- Day 3 – Mark 15:16-20
- Day 4 – Luke 22:66-71
- Day 5 – Luke 23:1-25

Lesson: The Trial

Read the red letters (Jesus Words) of John 18:36 & 37

1. What is Jesus proclaiming about Himself in these words?
2. What do you think Jesus is speaking of when He talks of "testifying to the truth"? (Consider John 1:1-17, and John 14:6)
3. Compare and respond to how Jesus answered Pilot in John 18:36-37 with the claims about Him found in the first few verses of this gospel (John 1:1-17).
4. How does understanding Jesus' mission purpose given to Him by the father, and His Kingdom in which He rules, help you grasp why he refused to fight, defend, or free himself from the trial and punishment given to Him?

Discovery Bible Study Exercise: In your journal or on a piece of paper make three columns and follow these steps:

- Step #1: Write out John 14:6
- Step #2: Re-write John 14:6 in your own words
- Step #3: Write out what you discover about Jesus in this passage?