

May 26, 2024

**Kingdom of Jesus**  
**John 18:28-40**  
**Pastor Kirk Gambrell**

Vol. 14 Num. 21

## Using This Study

### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will study the second part of John Chapter 18. Jesus is taken before Pilate but, Pilate does not have anything against Jesus. He is not a Jew and does not worry about how they treat each other. Pilate questions Jesus about His identity. Jesus does not correct him about being a king but does say that His kingdom is not of this world. This simple truth has a big impact on how Jesus' followers live. Join us this week as we talk about how we should live knowing that His kingdom is not of this world.



### **Jesus Brought Before Pilate**

<sup>28</sup> Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the Roman governor's residence. (Now it was very early morning.) They did not go into the governor's residence so they would not be ceremonially defiled, but could eat the Passover meal. <sup>29</sup> So Pilate came outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" <sup>30</sup> They replied, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

<sup>31</sup> Pilate told them, "Take him yourselves and pass judgment on him according to your own law!" The Jewish leaders replied, "We cannot legally put anyone to death." <sup>32</sup> (This happened to fulfill the word Jesus had spoken when he indicated what kind of death he was going to die.)

### **Pilate Questions Jesus**

<sup>33</sup> So Pilate went back into the governor's residence, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or have others told you about me?" <sup>35</sup> Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own people and your chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

<sup>36</sup> Jesus replied, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my servants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish authorities. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." <sup>37</sup> Then Pilate said, "So you are a king!" Jesus replied, "You say that I am a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world—to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." <sup>38</sup> Pilate asked, "What is truth?"

When he had said this he went back outside to the Jewish leaders and announced, "I find no basis for an accusation against him. <sup>39</sup> But it is your custom that I release one prisoner for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?" <sup>40</sup> Then they shouted back, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" (Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.)

**o EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details from this passage.**

Make 10 of your own observations from this passage. Avoid jumping to make interpretive decisions or drawing applications. Save those for the sections that follow. At this point just observe this passage and what it says. Look for things that are emphasized, repeated, and what stands out to you. Look at the verbs, what actions are in the text? Who is involved in the text? There is no right or wrong answer, just list 10 things you see in the text.

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## **🕒 Explore His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community group discussion)

### **What does God MEAN?**

1. Why did the Jewish leaders stay outside the governor's residence? (28)
2. What are the accusations against Jesus?
3. Where is Jesus' Kingdom?
4. What evidence does Jesus have that His kingdom is not of this world?
5. Why did Jesus come into the world?
6. Can you explain Pilates' comment about truth?
7. Why does Pilate call Jesus the king of the Jews?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

8. How can we say Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life, when He was sentenced to death by a court?

9. Which people belong to the truth? Explain what that looks like in today's world?

10. What do you think is the main idea of this passage? How does it apply to your life?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

**Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...**

*Sermon Notes*