

“Truth, What Is Truth?”

John 18:28-40

Verse 28a: Then they led **Jesus** from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, & it was early morning.

Context / Setting

By The Time Jesus Reaches The Roman Praetorium He Has Been On Trial Two Times & This Marks His 3rd Trial Before Three Different Leaders:

- 1) Trial Before Annas The Father-In-Law Of Caiaphas & Minority Of The Sanhedrin**
- 2) Trial Before Caiaphas & Majority Of The Sanhedrin**
- 3) 1st Of Three Trial Appearances Before Pontius Pilate**

There Are # 5 Ironies That Are Alluded To During Jesus' **1st Trial** Before Pontius Pilate!

With **Each Irony** There Is Also An Accompanying **Central Truth** That Is Elucidated To Us!

Verse 28b: But they (The Jewish Authorities) themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover.

1st Irony

In A Vain Attempt To Remain Holy & Pure & Eat The Sacrificial Passover Lamb. They Unknowingly Hand Over & Condemn Instead, The Only Holy & Pure One, Jesus Christ, The True Sacrificial Passover Lamb!

1st Truth

Jesus Christ Is Everyone's Long Awaited, Messiah, Redeemer, Deliver; The Perfect, Sacrificial Lamb Of God, Who Dies In All Of Our Places To Take Away The Sins Of The Whole World!

This Is One Of The Greatest Examples Of Hypocrisy & Religiosity In All Of Human History!

Here We Have Deeply Religious People Trying To Hold Onto External Regulations, Rules, & Traditions Of Religion, While Remaining Wholly Opposed To The Movement Of God's Holy Spirit!

Q: “What Do I Want My Life's Witness To God To Be?”

A: A Dead Hypocrisy & Religiosity Or A Living Obedience Of Love & Service

1st Rule of Evil & Hypocrisy

When All Else Fails, Shift the Truth, Alter The Truth, Or Lie & Deceive Others About The Truth! Verses 29 & 30: Pilate then went out to them & said, “What accusation do you bring against this Man?” The Jews answered him, “If this Man were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you.”

False accusations have not worked, trumped up charges have not worked, open lies have not worked in the previous 2 trials of Jesus. So, the Jews (God's Chosen People) resort to witnessing to God's Own Law in His Own Words to hide their own evil doing and evil scheming!

Pilate too as the Roman Governing Authority wishes to pass the buck and put the burden of proof, guilt, and ultimate responsibility for Jesus' fate in their hands, rather than his own.

Verse 31: Then Pilate said to them, “You take this Man & judge Him according to your law.” Therefore, the Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death”

However, the Jewish Authorities knew they were lying, because according to God's Law in God's Word if the accused defendant had committed a crime against the Law or had committed a crime directly against God being convicted of being a false prophet or committing blasphemy (falsely calling themselves god) he/she could still be put to death by the ruling Jewish governing body, the Sanhedrin, by an act of stoning.

In fact, the Roman Law only required the local Roman authorities were informed of their intentions before such actions could still be taken. So, God's command was still in effect since the days of Moses as recorded in Leviticus:

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Take outside the camp him who has cursed; then let all who heard him lay their hands on his head, & let all the congregation stone him. Then you shall

speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. 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!" **Leviticus 24:13-16 (NKJV)**

Instead the Jewish ruling authorities sought to do more than do away with Jesus by mere stoning! They wanted to humiliate Jesus by having Him crucified so that all the people might know that He was indeed a blasphemer and false prophet. They also wanted the people to think He was cursed by God Himself! In order to keep their established place of power & authority over the people!

"And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death (a false prophet being one of these crimes) & he is put to death, & you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is accursed by God; you shall not defile your land which the Lord your God gives you for an inheritance."

Deuteronomy 21:22-23 (NKJV)

2nd Irony

They Cursed The Lamb Of God & Hung Him Upon A Cursed Tree.

2nd Truth

But His Death, His Perfect Sacrifice,

Sets The Whole World Free From All Sin & Death For All Time!

Jesus' Prophetic Words Are Now Fulfilled

Verse 32: ... that the saying of **Jesus** might be fulfilled which **He** spoke, signifying by what death **He** would die.

Recall What Jesus Had Said To His Followers Just A Couple Of Days Before

"Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I AM lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." This **He** said, signifying by what death **He** would die.

John 12:31-33 (NKJV)

Irony Within An Irony!

Two Of Their Own Faithful Priests Joseph & Nicodemus

Reverse The Curse By Calling Jesus Christ, The Lord!

After this, **Joseph of Arimathea**, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; & Pilate gave him permission. So he came & took the body of Jesus. And **Nicodemus**, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh & aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus & bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, & in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day, for the tomb was nearby.

John 19:38-42 (NKJV)

Ironically, Joseph Means:

"God Will Bring Blessing & Increase To The People Through Him"

Ironically, Arimathea Means:

"A Place Where The Anointed One Will Not Face Decay & Corruption, But Will Rise Again & Be Highly Exalted!"

Ironically, Nicodemus Means:

"He Who Represents His People & Who Overcomes This Life Overwhelmingly Victorious By Faith in God!"

Verse 33: Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called **Jesus**, & said to **Him**, **"Are You the King of the Jews?"**

Pilate now asks a direct question of Jesus. ***“Are You Their King Or Not?”***

Verse 34: Jesus answered him, ***“Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?”***

Jesus probes Pilate for some common ground between them in asking him whether or not he came to the conclusion that Jesus was indeed royalty or was he merely repeating what the Jewish leaders had already told him.

Verse 35: Pilate Answered, ***“Am I a Jew?”***

Your own nation & the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?”

When Jesus perceives that Pilate does not know Who He Really Is Jesus probes deeper spiritually into his heart and mind.

Verse 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.”***

Pilate Now Presses His Central Question Again!

Verse 37a: Pilate therefore said to Him, ***“Are You a King then?”***

Jesus answered, ***“You say rightly that I AM A King!”***

3rd Irony

**Jesus Christ Reveals His True Identity As King
To A Gentile Leader Rather Than The Jewish Leaders!**

3rd Truth

**Remember, Jesus Has Already Testified About His True Identity As Messiah
To The Jewish Co-High Priests, Annas & Caiaphas & The Whole
Assembly Of the Jewish Religious Authorities of the Sanhedrin Council Earlier!**

As soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests & scribes, came together & led Him into their council, saying, ***“If You are the Christ, (The Son of the Blessed) tell us.”*** But He said to them, ***“If I tell you, you will by no means believe. And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.”*** Then they all said, ***“Are You then the Son of God?”*** So He said to them, ***“You rightly say that I AM. (And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power & coming with the clouds of heaven.)”*** Then the high priest tore his clothes & said, ***“What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?”*** And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.

Luke 22:66-70 & Mark 14:62-64 (NKJV)

Jesus Was Prophesied From Of Old By The Prophets

To Witness & Prophecy To The Gentiles As Well As The Jews!

“Behold! My Servant Whom I uphold, My Elect One in Whom My Soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.”

Isaiah 42:1 (NKJV)

Simeon held Jesus and said, ***“For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, & the glory of Your people Israel.”***

Luke 2:30-32 (NKJV)

Jesus Continues To Probe Pontius Pilate For His Take On All Of This!

Verse 37b: ***“For this cause I was born, & 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.”***

Verse 38a: Pilate replied, ***“Truth, What Is the Truth?”***

Pilate Still Does Not Know Exactly What To Believe About Jesus' Witness To Himself.

But He Is Sure About One Thing; Jesus Has Done Nothing Wrong.

He Has Done Nothing Deserving Of Death Under Roman Law!

Verse 38b: And when Pilate had said this, he went out again to the Jews, & said to them,
“I find no fault in this **Man** at all!”

Here We See Pilate's 1st Attempt To Let Jesus Go Free!

Verse 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?**”

But the Jewish authorities would have none of that, they had plotted & schemed for this very opportunity!

Verse 40: Then they (The Jews) all cried again, saying, “Not this **Man**, but **Barabbas!**”
Now Barabbas was a robber (an insurrectionist, a murderer, and a zealot).

4th Irony

The Majority Of The Jewish People Willingly Accept In Return
For The Condemnation & Death Of Jesus Christ;
The Amnesty & Life Of Jesus Barabbas!

4th Truth

Release The Guilty From Prison – Put To Death The Innocent!

The People Chose To Release & Absolve The Great Sins Of Jesus Barabbas
An Insurrectionist, A Murderer, A Robber, & A Zealot!

5th Irony

Both Men On Trial Have The Same First Name, Jesus!

Jesus Barabbas & Jesus Christ

Jesus Means: “He who takes away the sin & disgrace of the people!”

5th Truth

The People Chose To Pardon & Let Live A Human Jesus,
Full Of His Own Sin, Who Could Never Take Away Their Sins!
The People Reject & Condemn To Death A Human Jesus,
Who Was Without Any Sin, Who Would Take Away Their Sins!

I Have A Few Questions For All Of Us To Ponder Today!

Q: “Truth, What Is The Truth?”

Q: Truth, “What Is The Truth To Me?”

Q: “Once I Have Come To The Truth - What Can I Do About It?”

A1: I Can Rededicate My Life To God's Plan For Me!

A2: I Can Humble Myself & Become More Attentive To His Holy Spirit's Direction & Will In My Life!

A3: I Can Engage Others In Conversation With Questions Like These:

Q: “Truth, What Is The Truth To You?”

Q: “Why Do You Think You Are Alive?”

Q: “Does Your Life Have Meaning & Purpose?”

Q: “Did You Know That God Created You Specially For His Purpose & Glory?”

Q: “Did You Know That God Has Always Loved You & Will Love You Forever?”

Q: “Who Is God To You?”

Q: “Who Is Jesus To You?”

Q: “Do You Believe In An After Life?”

Q: “Did You Know That Jesus Of Nazareth Was A Real Man
Who Lived A Perfect Life Of Obedience & Sacrifice?”

Q: “Did You Know That Christ Is God The Father's

Co-Eternal Son Who Was Born Into The Man - Jesus Of Nazareth?”

Q: “Did You Know That Jesus Christ Was Raised From The Dead – Never To Die Again?”

Q: “Did You Know That Jesus Christ Ascended Back To Heaven

Where He Prays For You & Loves You Every Second Of Every Day?"

**Q: "Did You Know That Jesus Christ Is Coming Again Soon
As The Only King of Kings & Lord of Lords For All Eternity?"**

**Q: "Did You Know That Jesus Christ Is Building You An
Eternal Home With Him; If You Will Give Your Live To Him Now?"**

**And Last, But Not Least, In Fact,
The Most Important Thing I Can Do,
The Most Important Thing You Can Do In This Life,
Is Witness To Everyone We Meet
Concerning The Only Truth There Is,
That:**

***"Christ Has Come, Christ Has Died,
Christ Has Risen, Christ Has Ascended,
Christ Is Coming Again Soon!"***