

## Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

January 26, 2022

John 18: 29 - 37

**29** Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? **30** They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee. **31** Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death: **32** That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die. **33** Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews? **34** Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me? **35** Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? **36** Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. **37** Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

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Before Pastor Tom began the study this evening he shared an epiphany he had during his daily scripture reading. In Numbers 27: 12 - 14 when the Israelites are facing the Promised Land with the wilderness behind them, God tells Moses that he is not going to cross over the Jordan into the Promised Land because of his disobedience at Meribah. Earlier in their wandering in the desert, Moses was told by God not to strike the rock for water but in anger Moses hit the rock instead of speaking to it. This disobedience kept him out of the Promised Land. So Pastor Tom asked us to imagine what it will be like at the Great White Throne of Judgment and because someone did not believe in Jesus Christ they would not be allowed into heaven. God will say, "Depart from me, I never knew you." How awful and disappointed many people will be at that moment with heaven in sight.

This ties into our study in John 18 when Jesus tells Pilate that this moment/purpose is why He came (to be crucified for us) so we would believe in Him and not have to depart from heaven when we die.

## **Verse 29**

*Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man?*

\*The Jews wanted Pilate to deal with Jesus but they could not go into the Hall of Judgment because it would defile them for the Passover the next day. So Pilate comes outside to them and asks what Jesus had done wrong.

\*We know that everything the Jews had said about Jesus up to this point was all fabricated lies. Even Pilate understood that there is no reason (other than jealousy and hatred) for Jesus to be accused by the Jewish religious leaders.

Pastor Tom referred to the movie, God's Not Dead. In the last scene a student is arguing with his professor and asks, 'Why do you hate God?' The professor says it's because his mom died when he was young and so he was mad at God. The student says, 'How can you say you don't believe in God when you say that you hate him?' In other words, he must believe there is a God in order to be angry with Him.

## **Verse 30**

*They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee.*

\*The Jewish leaders called Jesus a malefactor/criminal. What do criminals do? They break the law. But Jesus didn't break any laws. He was All Man and All God.

\*A reminder that the Gnostics (which means knowledge) believed that Jesus was only a Spirit and that He didn't really die on the cross because He was a spirit, not a man.

\*Jesus was born unto a woman like us, but unlike us, He never sinned! So He was the perfect sacrifice. The Passover Lamb had to be spotless. Exodus 12 explains that when God sent the 10th plague, the plague of death to the first-born Egyptians, the Israelites were told to sacrifice the spotless lamb and paint the doorposts of their homes with the blood so that the spirit of death would pass over that home. Exodus 12: 13 and 23 says that He will keep the destroyer from you.

\*Since God's timing is impeccable, it is no surprise to know the very time the Jews were celebrating Passover, Jesus was on the Cross as our Spotless Lamb providing for us a pass over for death.

### **Verse 31**

*Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:*

\*So Pilate sends Jesus back to the Jews but it is "unlawful" for the Jews to put a man to death because Israel is a slave-state to the Roman government. The Jews have to ask permission of the Romans in order to put Jesus to death.

### **Verse 32**

*That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die.*

Pastor Tom referred us to Matthew 20:18 - 19 where Jesus says:

*18 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, 19 And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.*

## Verses 33 and 34

*Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews? 34 Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?*

\*Pilate calls Jesus back into the Hall to ask Him if He is really the King of the Jews. Jesus replies by asking Pilate if he really wants to know who He is or if he is just asking for the Jews.

\*Remember: Knowing ABOUT Jesus will not get you into heaven. As Pastor Tom realized in his reading from Numbers, Moses did not get to go into the Promised Land and someone who knows about Jesus and who He is, will not enter heaven unless they have asked Him to be their Lord and Savior. Knowing about Jesus and really KNOWING Him in your heart is two different things.

## Verse 35

*Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?*

\*Pilate may be getting a little more emotional here when he asks Jesus what He's done: Why are you here?

## Verse 36

*Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*

\*In the 1st chapter of John, we know that Jesus created this world. But he answers Pilate that His Kingdom is not in this world. (Recall in the Lord's Prayer: Thy kingdom come [to earth], thy will be done)

Discussion then moved to the sad conditions in our world today.

\*If Jesus' kingdom were of this world, then His servants (10,000 angels) would fight so the Jews would not kill Him. But now, presently, Jesus' kingdom is not from here in this world.

### **Verse 37**

*Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*

\*So Pilate still wants to know if Jesus is a king and Jesus tells him that he says so. But then Jesus does give Pilate something to think about. Jesus tells Pilate why He was born and come into the world:

So that He can be a witness to the Truth. (I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. John 14:6) To save us from our sins/redeem us back into fellowship with God

And everyone who is of the Truth, can hear my voice.

\*When is the last time you have heard God's voice?

Several people gave answers to this question including Pastor Tom -

In his 27 years preaching here at Mt. Olive, he has only scratched the surface of what truths are in the Bible, the infallible Word of God.

All participants said goodbye and shared this blessing:

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May the Lord watch between me and thee

While we are absent one from the other.

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