

March 30, 2014

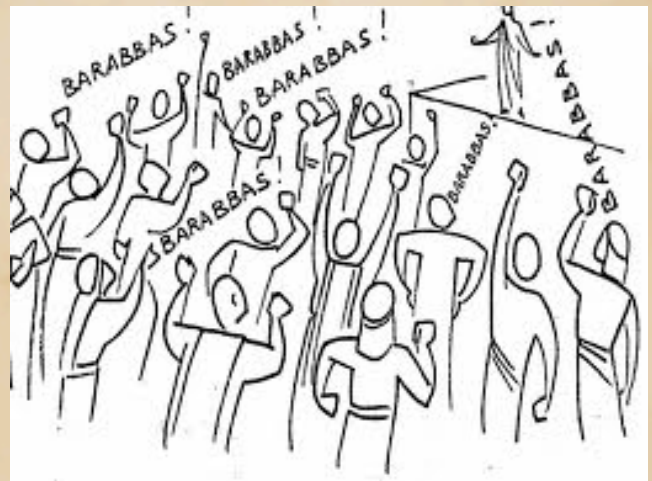
## Lesson 25: Jesus and Pilate

**John 18:28-40**

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, 'What accusation do you bring against this man?' They answered, 'If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.' The Jews replied, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.' (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, 'I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' They shouted in reply, 'Not this man, but Barabbas!' Now Barabbas was a bandit.



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**The Big Story Truth:** The truth is that Jesus is the Son of God, our Savior!

**About This Scripture Passage:** The real trial going on here is not about whether or not Jesus is guilty. The real trial going on is whether or not the world will believe Jesus' word and that what he speaks is the truth. Those involved in the story here do not. The Jewish leaders, though they are ultra concerned about not entering the Roman officials headquarters for fear of becoming ritually unclean (according to Jewish law), seem to have no problem condemning an innocent person to death. Their response to Jesus is what reveals them as the guilty ones.

"Everyone  
who belongs to  
truth listens to  
my voice."





## Making the Connection:

Pilate asked Jesus a question in this passage that is very ironic. Pilate asks Jesus, "What is the truth?" Right after asking the question, Pilate walked away... entirely oblivious to who it is that is standing right in front of him. We know that Jesus is the truth! This lesson is an opportunity for us to talk about truth with our children. If they were asked that question about truth, what have they learned about Jesus that would empower them to reply that Jesus is the truth?

While we are not likely to ever be formally put on trial for our faith, our kids are daily confronted with opportunities to share their faith with others and to bear witness to the truth that Jesus is. This lesson is an opportunity for us to help strengthen them so that they have an answer to that question!

**Where in the World Are We?** Jesus is questioned in Pilate's headquarters. There are a couple of possibilities for this location. One is what is called the *praetorium*, which would have been Pilate's residence, a part of the royal palace.

The actual word used though in John 19:13 for where Jesus is questioned means "the pavement." The ancient historian Josephus describes a paved yard next to Harod's Palace, but no ruins of one have (at least as of yet) been found there. Another option for where the trial might have taken place would have been in the courtyard of the Fortress Antonia. This area is still visible today in the basement of a modern day convent.

## For Your Reflection:

*What are the things that you know- without a doubt- to be true?*

*What is it mean to you to define Jesus as "the truth"?*

*Since Jesus is truth, what is lie? How can you equip your kids to counter any lies they will come upon in their lives?*

