

**Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for May 25, 2008**

**Christ Before Pilate
John 18:28-38
Dale Whitehead**

Pilate meets with Christ's accusers (18:28-32).

Pilate's initial examination of Christ (John 18:33-38).

When Pilate asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews, he was asking Jesus if He was their King in a political sense.

When Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" he was not so much asking a question as much as he was expressing disbelief.

Rather than seeing a man that in anyway fit his image of what a king, a political king, might look like, he saw only a rather unimpressive man without any trappings of regal authority or power.

Christ used Pilate's initial question of disbelief to seize control of the trial by asking Pilate a question of His own in John 18:34.

When Pilate, in response to Christ's question, chose to abandon the examination of the Jewish charges in John 18:35 by asking Christ "What have You done?" it provided the opportunity for Christ to explain the true nature of His kingship.

Christ begins by explaining what His kingdom was not (John 18:36).

When Jesus said that His kingdom was not of this world, He meant that His kingdom did not originate in this world nor did it belong to this world.

When Pilate responded to what Christ had said about what His kingdom was not with the words, "So You are a king?" Pilate was inviting Jesus to expand on the nature of His kingdom.

We learn that Christ's kingdom originated from above (John 18:37).

We learn that Christ's kingdom is based on truth as revealed in and through Christ (John 18:37).

We learn that Christ's true disciples are identified by the way they respond to the truth as Christ Himself had revealed it (John 18:37).

May God give us the grace to live our lives in such a way that we know that we are citizens of Christ's kingdom rather than the kingdom of darkness.

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