

**Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for June 1, 2008**

**Christ Before Pilate
John 18:38-40
Dale Whitehead**

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

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

Pilate, being convinced of Christ's innocence, sought to deliver Christ from crucifixion (John 18:38-40).

When Pilate told the Jews that he had found no guilt in Christ, the Jews began to immediately and strongly protest according to Luke 23:4-5.

This strong and immediate protest by the Jewish leadership kept Pilate from releasing Jesus because he was fearful that his own political career would be ruined if another riot broke out.

Though Pilate was unwilling, for political expediency, to immediately release Jesus, he was willing to turn Jesus over to Herod when he saw the opportunity to do so (Luke 23:6-7).

Herod Antipas was the man who, along with his wife Herodias, had been confronted by John the Baptist for violating the laws of God (Mark 6:17-18).

The result of John the Baptist's confrontation of Herod and his wife was that John the Baptist was imprisoned and later reluctantly executed by Herod after he had been manipulated by his wife Herodias (Mark 6:17-29).

Herod believed John the Baptist was a holy man and therefore, when Christ had begun to perform miracles, he initially believed that John the Baptist had risen from the dead (Matthew 14:1-2).

Unfortunately, over time, though Herod's interest in meeting Christ continued, his conscience had become hardened which became apparent after Pilate sent Jesus to him (Luke 23:8-9).

After Jesus chose to remain silent, Herod and his soldiers mocked Jesus and then sent Him back to Pilate according to Luke 23:10-11.

Pilate, in John 18:39, after Jesus had returned from Herod, was hoping that he could use the Roman custom of releasing a Jewish prisoner during the Passover to free Jesus.

Pilate, according to Matthew 27:17, offered to the Jews, two different Jewish prisoners for possible release.

Barabbas, according to Mark 15:7, had committed murder during a Jewish insurrection, but he was not nearly as noble as other Jewish insurrectionists, he also according to John 18:40, was a robber.

Pilate believed that many Jews, based on His triumphal entry into Jerusalem just a few days before, actually believed that Jesus was their King.

John 18:39 tells us that after Pilate gave the Jewish people a choice in Matthew 27:17, he went on to ask them if they wanted “the King of the Jews” to be released to them.

May God give us the grace to know that as true disciples of Christ our future presence in heaven is as certain as it was that Christ would be crucified.