

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for June 22, 2008

Christ Before Pilate
John 19:1-7
Dale Whitehead

Pilate's initial meeting with Christ's accusers (John 18:28-32).

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

Pilate, being convinced of Christ's innocence, sought for the very first time to deliver Christ from crucifixion by offering the Jews a choice between Barabbas and Christ (John 18:38b-40).

The fourth part of Christ's trial was Pilate's second attempt to deliver Christ from crucifixion (John 19:1-7).

Based on Luke 23:16, Pilate had Jesus scourged not to prepare Him for crucifixion, but rather to prepare Him for release.

Pilate believed that if he beat and mutilated Christ by scourging Him that it might satisfy the Jews, thus making it possible for him to release Christ without causing a riot.

A Roman scourge was a thick stick wrapped in leather. At the end of this stick were leather thongs of some length. On the ends of those leather thongs were bits of brass, lead and bone.

In addition to the scourging, the Roman soldiers also took time to mock Jesus (John 19:2-3).

After Jesus had been scourged and mocked, Pilate ordered Christ to be brought out so that the Jewish multitude could see Him (John 19:4-5).

Pilate, in displaying Christ as a mutilated cartoonish caricature of a king, hoped that the Jewish multitude would think Christ had suffered enough.

When Pilate said to the Jews, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him," he was not officially transferring to them the power to execute, he was sarcastically taunting them.

The Jews, realizing that Pilate was refusing to crucify Christ based on Roman law, appealed to Pilate to crucify Christ on the basis of Jewish law (John 19:7).

Pilate was not only responsible for enforcing Roman law but could enforce local laws as well when it came to the matter of Pax Romana, or in other words, Roman peace.

If Pilate chose to consider the Jewish charge that Christ had made Himself out to be the Son of God it would be his responsibility to determine if Jesus had done that and if it were true.

May God give us the grace to build our lives on the promises of Christ knowing that they are certain and cannot be thwarted.