

**Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for July 13, 2008**

**Christ Before Pilate
John 19:8-16
Dale Whitehead**

The first part of the trial was Pilate's initial meeting with Christ's accusers (John 18:28-32).

The second part of the trial was Pilate's initial examination of Christ (John 18:33-38a).

The third part of the trial was Pilate's first attempt to protect Christ from crucifixion by offering the Jews a choice between Barabbas and Christ (John 18:38b-40).

The fourth part of the trial was Pilate's second attempt to protect Christ from crucifixion by having Him scourged, hoping that the severity of the punishment might satisfy the Jews (John 19:1-7).

The fifth part of the trial was a second examination of Christ by Pilate (John 19:8-12).

Pilate, having heard that Christ had made Himself out to be the Son of God, became more fearful of Christ because he, for a moment, thought that perhaps he had scourged a divine person (John 19:8).

When Pilate asked Christ where He was from, he was not asking Him what town He was from, but rather he was asking Him if He was in fact the son of a god (John 19:9).

The only answer that Pilate got from Christ was silence.

All four gospel writers record for us different occasions during the course of His trial where Christ chose to remain silent (Matthew 26:63; 27:14; Mark 14:60-61; 15:5; Luke 23:9; John 19:9).

The reason why Christ did not answer Pilate in John 19:9 is because He had already given Pilate the answer to that question in John 18:33-38 and had been rebuffed by Pilate.

Christ's silence caused Pilate's pride to overwhelm Pilate's fear of Christ (John 19:10).

Pilate was not in control, God was in control, and it was God who had given him the authority to release Christ or to crucify (John 19:11).

Because Pilate had been given authority by God to exercise judgment his sin was not considered as great a sin as the sin of those who brought Christ to Pilate for judgment (John 19:11).

The sixth part of the trial consisted of Pilate's third and most forceful but futile attempt to protect Christ from crucifixion (John 19:12-16).

The Jews responded to Pilate's renewed conscience-driven effort to release Christ with a veiled threat of taking their case against Christ to Caesar (John 19:12).

Pilate, having failed to persuade the Jews to drop their charges and to stop insisting that Christ be crucified, reluctantly but also selfishly acquiesced to their demands (John 19:13-16).

May God give us the grace to place our faith and trust in Christ alone for our salvation and seek to build our lives on the promises of His Word.