



All Christians' Fellowship International

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: Pilate on Trail

TEXT: John 18:28-19:16

Instructions - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: Christ Killers! The words made my stomach tighten. Someone had spray-painted the words and a series of swastikas on the Jewish synagogue in our city. Anti-Semitism had raised its ugly head again. The New Testament does blame the Jewish leaders for condemning Jesus to die. But they weren't acting alone. The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, also condemned Jesus to die. He did so even though he knew that Jesus was innocent. There is a sense, too, in which we killed Jesus. He died for our sins and in our place. The most amazing answer to the question of who killed Jesus is that no one did! Jesus said, "No one takes my life from me. I lay it down of my own choice."

Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss why it is easy for many Christians to be tempted to compromise Christian faith or witness because of peer or societal pressure?
2. Read John 18:28-38. Discuss how do the Jewish leaders reveal their hypocrisy by refusing to enter Pilate's (a Gentile) home (v. 28)?
3. A Roman trial included four basic elements: the accusation, the interrogation (search for evidence), the defense and the verdict. What events or statements from the text are included in each of the four elements?
4. How would you describe Jesus' "Kingdom" based on his response to Pilate (v. 36)?
5. Read John 18:39- 19:16. Pilate obviously was trying to release Jesus. What specific attempts did he make? Why do you think he was trying to release Jesus?
6. What can you conclude about Pilate's character after reading this passage? What kind of man was he?
7. The Jews' true charge against Jesus comes out in verse 7 - "He claimed to be the Son of God." Why do you think Pilate reacted to that statement as he did (v. 8-9)?

8. Why didn't Jesus say more to Pilate (v. 9-11)? Shouldn't he have defended himself more vigorously?

9. What parallels can you draw between the crowd's threats toward Pilate (v. 12) and the world's attempts to divert Christians from fully following Christ?

10. The message of the Gospel is that Jesus took upon himself the condemnation that we deserve. In what specific ways do you see Christ's grace demonstrated in his trial before Pilate? How can Christians respond appropriately to Christ's grace to them?