

# Christ Before Pilate - 1

Sermon 87 in the Matthew series

## Matthew 27:1, 11-14; John 18:28-38

**1 Timothy 6:13** -- I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and *before* Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,

### I. The Hypocrisy of Religious Men - Matt. 27:1-2

The rulers had convicted Jesus as being worthy of death on the basis of “blasphemy” a breaking of the third commandment.

Pilate would have no concern for that – so they charge Christ with treason against Rome.

### II. The Issue – are you a King? Matthew 27:11-14

### III. The Accusations and Desire of the Authorities -- John 18:28-32

**John 12:32-33** -- And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all *peoples* to Myself.”<sup>33</sup> This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

### IV. Questioned by Pilate -- John 18:33-38

#### A. Christ’s perfect answer to Pilate’s first Question. v. 33-34

If Pilate asked the question of himself, he would have meant, “Are you a political king competing against Caesar?” (v. 33)

If Pilate was asking on behalf of *Caiaphas*, he would have meant “*Are you the Messiah, the coming King of Israel?*”

Christ always answered perfectly. *Why are you asking?* (v.34)

#### B. Why has your own nation turned against You? v. 35

### C. Christ's truthful Answer v. 36

1. I have a Kingdom.
2. It's not a Kingdom of this world.
3. The proof is, I do not have a human army ready to fight Rome.

### D. Notice what Christ does not Say

- He doesn't say, "*My kingdom is not of this world, yet*".
- He doesn't say, "*My kingdom would have been of this world, if the Jews had only accepted me as Messiah.*"

Pilate had some idea what Jesus meant on one level.

He understood that Jesus was not a revolutionary.

He understood that Jesus was not a political threat to Caesar.

He understood that Jesus was claiming to be a king.

Obviously, a different kind of king than the world has ever known.

E. v. 37a – “So... you ARE a King?”

F. v. 37b -- Everyone who is of the truth, hears my Voice.

### G. What is Truth? v. 38

Pilate had a private audience with the God of the universe, but all he could see was a humble but seemingly beleaguered-looking Jewish man, who was already exhausted and had already been beaten bloody by his own people who were calling for his death.

Christ was gracious in that He gave sound words – pure truth -- to Pilate – and Christ seemed willing to speak with him further – but Pilate walked away – the opportunity was lost and Pilate remained lost in his sin.