

Gospel of John
[The Roman Trial (Part 1) (John 18:28-40)]

I. The Setting (v. 28)

-Passover = The (seven-day) Feast of Unleavened Bread (Luke 22:1). The Jewish leaders were unwilling to defile themselves because it would disqualify them from participating in the remainder of the week's ceremonies.

II. Pilate's Inquiries (vs. 29-40)

-First Inquiry (of the Jews) (vs. 29-32)

- Pilate, Roman governor of Judea from AD 26-AD 37; weak ruler; hated the Jews (Luke 3:1, 2; 13:1)
- Jesus' Word in v. 32: see John 3:14; 8:58; 12:32; Matt. 20:18, 19

-Second Inquiry (of Jesus) (vs. 33-38)

- v. 36: Negatively, Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. If it was, He would establish it by force. He has no intention of leading any rebellion against Rome.
- v. 37: Positively, Pilate is correct in saying Jesus is a king. His mission is to bear witness to the truth.

-Third Inquiry (of the Jews) (vs. 39, 40)

- (Jesus) Barabbas ("son of the father") (Mark 15:7; Luke 23:14, 15)

Practical Lessons

- 1) Beware of incipient legalism and formalism (1 Sam. 16:7; Heb. 4:13).
- 2) The events associated with Barabbas illustrate substitutionary atonement (Is. 53:5, 6; 1 Pet. 3:18).
- 3) Unbelief is a deadly sin (Heb. 11:6).