

No Fault in Him  
John 18:28-40

As the news is telling us every day all day long, you are going to die, everyone is dangerous, and that the Government is your ultimate ruler, this morning we are taken back to the truth about death, the truth about the kingdom of Jesus, the truth about truth, the truth about Jesus innocence and His substitutionary atonement. You can see each of these points in your outline. John leaves out the account of the trial before Herod, and focuses alone on Jesus before Pilate. Perhaps because Pilate was the local authority, the “lesser magistrate” who would make the final ruling against Jesus.

- I. Hypocrisy revealed at the gate of the Praetorium, v28
- II. Pilate asks for the accusation, v29-30
- III. Pilate refuses to rule, v31-32
- IV. Pilate returns to question Jesus again for His final trial, v33-40
  - a. His Kingdom is not of this world, v33-36
  - b. His truth is for this world, v37-38a
  - c. His innocence is announced, v38b
  - d. His substitution for Barabbas is revealing, v39-40

Applications:

**Additional Resource: Harmony of the Gospel Accounts.**

Below is a Harmony of the Gospel Writers from John MacArthur’s One Perfect Life. I encourage you to read it to give the added color from the other Gospel writers. The red text is the scriptural text.

**187. Jesus’ Trial Before Pilate Matt. 27:2, 11–14; Mark 15:1–5; Luke 23:1–5; John 18:28–38**

**Trial before Pilate**

MT And when they had MK bound Jesus, LK the whole multitude of them arose and led Him MT away JN from Caiaphas to the Praetorium MT and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor. **JN** And it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover.

Pilate then went out to them and said, “ What accusation do you bring against this Man?”

They answered and said to him, “If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you.”

Then Pilate said to them, “You take Him and judge Him according to your law.”

Therefore the Jews said to him, “ It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,” that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

### **Accusations from the people**

**LK** And they began to accuse Him, saying, “We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.”

### **Pilate asks a question**

**JN** Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?”

### **Jesus replies**

MT Jesus stood before the governor **JN** [and] answered him, “Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?”

Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me.

### **Pilate questions Jesus**

What have You done?”

Jesus answered, “ My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?”

Jesus answered, MT “ It is **JN** rightly MT as you say, **JN** that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said **LK** to the chief priests and the crowd, **JN** “**I find no fault in **LK** this Man **JN** at all.**”

### **The crowd**

LK But they were the more fierce, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place.” MT And while He was being accused MK of many things MT by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.

MK Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, “Do You answer nothing? MT Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?” But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.

LK When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

### **188. Jesus’ Trial Before Herod Antipas Luke 23:6–12**

Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him.

#### **Herod begins extensive questioning**

Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing.

#### **Violent reaction of the Jews**

And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him.

The Jews passion rubbed off on Herod’s warriors

Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate.

#### **Strange alliance**

That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

### **189. Jesus Sentenced Before Pilate Matt. 27:15–26a; Mark 15:6–15; Luke 23:13–25; John 18:39–19:15**

#### **The identity of Barabbas**

MT Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner, MK whomever they requested. MT And at that time they had a notorious prisoner, **JN** a robber, MK named Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in LK a certain rebellion made in the city.

MT Therefore, when they had gathered together, MK the multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do just as he had always done for them. But Pilate answered them, saying, **JN** “**You have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover.** MT Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ? MK Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?”

## **Pilate understood how corrupt the Jews were**

For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy. MT

## **Pilate's wife speaks up**

While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him."

LK Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, **I have found no fault in this Man** concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him.

I will therefore chastise Him and release Him" (for it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast).

MT But the chief priests and elders MK stirred up the crowd, so that MT they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.

The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" LK And they all cried out at once, saying, "Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas. **JN** Not this Man, but Barabbas!"

## **Pilate was in a jam – He wanted to release Jesus**

LK Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, MK answered and LK called out MK to them again, "What then do you want me to do with MT Jesus who is called Christ MK whom you call the King of the Jews?"

## **The crowd answers**

LK But they MT all LK shouted [and] MK cried out again, LK saying MT to him, "Let Him be crucified! LK Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Then he said to them the third time, "**Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go.**" **JN** So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands. Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!" Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, LK they were insistent, MT [and] cried out all the more, LK demanding with loud voices, **JN** saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, " You take Him and crucify Him, **for I find no fault in Him.**" The Jews answered him, " We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God." **Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium,** and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to Him,

“Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?”

Jesus answered, “ You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”

From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, “If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar’s friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.”

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” But they cried out, “Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?”

The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar!” LK And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed. MT When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, “**I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it.**” And all the people answered and said, “ His blood be on us and on our children.”

MK So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, LK gave sentence that it should be as they requested. And he released to them, MK Barabbas, LK the one they requested, who for rebellion and murder had been thrown into prison.

#### **190. Further Mockery from the Roman Soldiers Matt. 27:26b–30; Mark 15:16–19; John 19:16**

MT When [Pilate] had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him **JN** to them MT to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor **JN** took Jesus and led Him away MK into the hall called Praetorium, and they called together the whole garrison MT around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. MK And they clothed Him with purple; and MT when they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand MK and began to salute Him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” MT And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him [and] MK worshiped Him. MT Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.

MacArthur, John F. One Perfect Life . Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.