

Encounters with Jesus

Jesus' Relationships in the Gospel of John

Lesson #13 – Jesus & Pilate

May 20, 2009

Introduction

1. Review action plans from last week.
2. Background

John 18:28 – 40

28 Then they *led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover.

29 Therefore Pilate went out to them and *said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?"
30 They answered and said to him, "If this Man were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him to you."

31 So Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law." The Jews said to him, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death," 32 to fulfill the word of Jesus which He spoke, signifying by what kind of death He was about to die.

33 Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

34 Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?"

35 Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?"

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

37 Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say *correctly* that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

38 Pilate *said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and *said to them, "I find no guilt in Him. 39 "But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover; do you wish then that I release for you the King of the Jews?"

40 So they cried out again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas." Now Barabbas was a robber. ¹

* **A star (*)** is used to mark verbs that are historical presents in the Greek which have been translated with an English past tense in order to conform to modern usage. The translators recognized that in some contexts the present tense seems more unexpected and unjustified to the English reader than a past tense would have been. But Greek authors frequently used the present tense for the sake of heightened vividness, thereby transporting their readers in imagination to the actual scene at the time of occurrence. However, the translators felt that it would be wise to change these historical presents to English past tenses.

¹ *New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update*. LaHabra, CA : The Lockman Foundation, 1995, S. Jn 18:28-40

5. Other Observations

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Laws of Structure

1. **Comparison** Showing how things are similar
2. **Contrast** Showing how things are dissimilar
3. **Repetition** *Identical* terms, phrases, clauses, etc. are repeated
4. **Continuity** *Similar* terms, phrases, clauses, etc. are repeated
5. **Continuation** Elaboration on an idea, term, etc.
6. **Climax** Progression from lesser to greater toward some *high point* in the direction/flow of the text
7. **Cruciality** An important idea, point, event which *changes* the direction/flow of the text
8. **Interchange** Alternation of ideas, terms, etc. (A, B, A, B); Often used with Comparison/Contrast
9. **Particularization/Generalization** From specific to general/From general to specific
10. **Causation/Substantiation** From something's cause to its result/From result to cause
11. **Instrumentation** Purpose, what is done and why; ends/means
12. **Explanation/Analysis** Gives an event/idea and explains it
13. **Preparation/Introduction** Helps the reader understand what is happening by setting it up (background, setting, context, etc.)
14. **Summarization** Here is what happened/is going to happen; an abstract
15. **Interrogation** Question/Answer or Problem/Situation
16. **Harmony** Consistency between related things (Promise/Fulfillment; Disease/Cure)

Interpretation

1. What questions does this passage raise?

2. How do each of the following react to the others?

	Jesus	Jews	Pilate
Jesus	- -		
Jews		- -	
Pilate			- -

3. What do we learn about truth? What does it mean to be “of the truth”?

4. John’s purpose is to lead us to believe that Jesus is the Word became flesh. How does belief factor into this passage? What does this passage teach us about belief?

5. What point do you think John is making in this passage?

6. Based on this passage, put yourself in the positions of Pilate. Who is he? What is he like?

