

# SERMON OUTLINE John 18:28-38a

The Trials and Denials of Jesus - Part 2

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## **THE FEAR OF MAN IN THE JEWISH AND ROMAN TRIALS (28A)**

### **MORE IRONY IN THE JEWS (28B)**

### **THE FIRST ROMAN TRIAL BEFORE PILATE (29-38A)**

*The Trial Begins (29)*

*The Jews Try to Manipulate in Fear (30-31)*

*The Plan of God Triumphs over the Sin of Man, through the Sin of Man (32)*

*Pilate Recognizes that Things Are Not as they Seem and Questions Jesus Privately (33-35)*

*Jesus Reveals His True Nature and Purpose (36-38)*

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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The big idea is that although there were no credible accusations against Jesus, the sinfulness of man, the righteousness of Jesus, and the plan of God all came together to bring about Jesus' condemnation. The main takeaways for us are to praise Jesus for gladly giving Himself to the will of God even though it led to His mistreatment at the hands sinful men and to follow Jesus' example in that.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What is your sense of these final hours of Jesus' life? What do you make of Judas, the Jews, the Romans, Jesus?
3. Had you ever given much thought to why the Jews felt the need to take Jesus to Pilate? Why is it significant?
4. Do you struggle with the fear of man? Where does it show up in your life? What is the result?
5. Do you tend to swallow more gnats, camels, or both? Can you name a specific example and the motivation behind it?
6. From this passage alone, how would you describe Pilate? How would you have acted the same and different than him?
7. From this passage alone, how would you describe Jesus? How would you have acted the same and different than Him?
8. How do you feel about the fact that God uses your sin as well as your obedience to accomplish His purposes?
9. What do you think Jesus meant by "My kingdom is not of this world"? What difference did that make in this situation?
10. If an outside observer were to audit the last week of your life with perfect insight, on a scale of 1-10, how important would they say "truth" was in relation to the things you did, said, and felt?
11. In what ways did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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12. What is one specific thing that you have or intend to do differently in light of this passage?
13. Read the rest of John, chapters 18-21 to prepare yourself for the rest of our time in the Gospel.
14. Listen to Doug Bookman's Holy Week lectures (we have them available to download).
15. Identify one specific way in which you make regular decisions based on the fear of man and ask God to help you repent.
16. Identify one specific way you are swallowing the same gnats or camels and ask God to help you repent.
17. Identify one specific way you are not living first as a citizen of the Kingdom of God and ask God to help you repent.
18. Journal your way through a Psalm a day this week, focusing on the goodness of trusting God through every moment.
19. Try to depict the events of this passage in some way (drawing, painting, poem, song, sculpture, etc.).
20. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
21. Ask God to show you one specific thing you ought to do differently as a result of this text or sermon? Share that and pray about it with someone in your DG. Continue praying for and checking in with each other until you've both done it.

## PRAYER POINTS

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22. Adoration. Praise God for being sovereign, wise, and good. Praise God that He is perfectly holy and righteous. Praise God for being personal, patient, kind, gracious, and merciful. Praise God for being the King of kings. Praise God for being Truth.
23. Confess. Confess any fear of man. Name the specific people and fears that overshadow God in your life. Confess any ways you are content to sin, either by focusing on lesser things and neglecting greater ones or by indifference to sin in general.
24. Thanksgiving. Thank God for Jesus' obedience on your behalf. Thank God for revealing His plans, actions, promises, and will.
25. Supplication. Ask God to drive out the fear of man and indifference to sin from Grace Church. Ask Him to save your neighbor.