Intro: We are not going to be able to fit all of this trial into one setting, so we are going to break it up into two-part series. We had 2½ years of verse by verse teaching the words from the book of John and we have made it to the last few hours of our Lords life. We have laughed and some of the funny things the team did, we have cried over how our Lord loves his creation, and now we are going to cry over how our Lord died for His creation, and how they mistreated the Lord and God of the universe. So, hang on because we are going to witness the trail that set us free from sin. There are 9 stages to look at and 8 events that happen on the cross. So, we are going to look at the 9 stages first.

I. Stage one: The Religious leaders pawning Jesus of on Pilate – 28 Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor’s headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor’s headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. 29 So Pilate went outside to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” 30 They answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.” 31 Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” The Jews said to him, “It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.” 32 This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die. John 18:28-32

a. Jesus was led to Pilate early in the morning

b. The Jewish leader was more concerned about the law and not grace

c. Palate meet them with a straight question do to Roman Law

• They didn’t want blood on their hands nor did Pilate, for his wife warned him to stay away from Christ for what she saw in her dream. Both the Jewish Leaders and Pilate were afraid of the crowds, and the Jewish leaders used this to their advantage, buy getting the crowd to turn against Christ they could pressure Pilate to kill Jesus thus solving their problem, keeping good with the people, and getting read of Christ once and for all.

d. The false charge of Christ doing evil

e. Pilate refused to hear the case

• I believe he knew that the Jewish leaders were up to no good. I believe that he may have known that they did not want to kill Him for the threat of the people, but if Rome would do it then they would not have blood on their hands.

f. The Jewish leaders have already determined Jesus’ guilt before a trail

• You see a fair trail was supposed to determine the innocence of a person or the guilt a person. But this was not ordinary trail. He is guilty, so let fix the witness, let’s fix the trail to where there is only one already determined outcome, guilty.

II. Stage two: Pilate was to hear Jesus’ defense before a trail – 33 So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” 34 Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” 35 Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” 36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” 37 Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world— to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” 38 Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. 39 But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” 40 They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber. John 18:33-40

a. Pilate’s question was more about Jesus’ humanity not his Deity

• If Pilate thought for a moment that Jesus was going to be a threat to Rome, he would have had him killed immediately. Herod is king it was Pilate job to make sure of that. Jesus was not threat to the throne.

b. Jesus challenged Pilates question not his authority

• From any conviction of your own mind, or any apprehension of danger. During all the time in which you have been praetor, have you seen anything in me that has led you to apprehend sedition or danger to the Roman power? This evidently was intended to remind Pilate that nothing was proved against him, and to caution him against being influenced by the malicious accusations of others. Jesus demanded a just trial, and claimed that Pilate should not be influenced by any reports that he might have heard of him (Barns Notes, Albert Barnes, The Gospels, John, pg. 365).

c. Pilate knew that he was in a quandary with the Jews

• He admits that it was from the accusation of others; but then he tells the Savior that the charge was one of moment, and worthy of the deepest attention. It had come from the very nation of Jesus, from his own countrymen, and from the highest authority among the people. As such it demanded consideration, and Pilate besought him to tell him what he had done-that is, what there had been in his conduct that had given occasion for this charge (Barns Notes, Albert Barnes, The Gospels, John, pg. 365).

d. Jesus stated His kingdom was not of the world

• A king must have a kingdom, but when Pilate heard that Jesus’ kingdom was not of this world, Pilate knew Jesus was not threat to Rome. This was about the battle between the Jewish leaders and Christ, not Christ and the Roman Empire. This does not give Jesus a not guilt verdict but it does give Jesus an innocent man being wrongful charged an innocent outcome, even when put to death.

e. Pilate asked again if Jesus was a King

• Jesus once again never denied, but instead accepted his Deity, even in the face of certain death.

f. Jesus’ replay was Yes

• Christ was born into the world that I might set up and maintain a spiritual government: but this government is established in and by truth. All that love truth, hear my voice and attend to the spiritual doctrines I preach. It is by truth alone that I influence the minds and govern the manners of my subjects.

g. Jesus’ appeal for Pilate to hear the truth not the false rhetoric

• We want to know what truth is so we can redefine it into our own make-believe fiction, thus making it into a believable lie that is not true. The worlds truth is only what we what to believe in, if we don’t believe in it then it is not true. Actual truth can not be changed, redefine, or even manipulated into something that it is not. Truth is, period. The truth is that there are only two genders, period. It can not be changed, redefine, or even manipulated into something it is not. You can’t manipulate a boy into being a girl, or vice-versa.

h. Pilate questioned what truth is

• Pilate was saying is this, “truth is relative to what each individual makes it out to be.” Your truth may be and is differ from my truth so, truth is based on the individual not a set of standards or facts that can’t be changed. So, truth can be and will change depending on the time, place, person, and circumstances. Sounds familiar doesn’t it. How can you know what lie is if you can compare it to something that is true?

III. Stage three: The court of public opinion find Jesus guilty –38 Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him. 39 But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” 40 They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber. John 18:38-40

a. The crowd choose a sinner over a Savior

• The choose a criminal over God in the flesh. They choose a sinner over their creator. The choose a hateful man over the man who loved them and cared for them. They choose a man who terrorized the community over a man who brought peace. They choose a man who brought death over a man who gave them live.

b. Who would we choose today over Christ

• We scream at them for making bad decision, we set and wonder why in the world they could make such a poor chose. They had no idea that there were a spiritual battle going on in the spirit world we were not able to see. The lives of the souls of man rest in the hands of their creator, and yet they literally had no idea what was going on. Do we make bad decisions, and yet we still can see the battle that is going on in the spirit world of God creation. Yes we have won the war, but the battles are still being fought, over us.

° 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, 19 and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. Ephesians 6:10-20