

Jesus > Man's Authority

John 18:28-19:16

We may have some authority over some people in different places, such as, at our Jobs, at our school, in our extra curricular activities, in our home.

Today we are going to be looking at how Jesus is GREATER than Man's Authority.

Read John 18:28-32

28 Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. **29** So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

30 "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

31 Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

“But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. **32** This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

This scene is pretty crazy. These men are asking Pilate to condemn Jesus without so much as raising a charge against him.

In verse 29, “Pilate asked, What charges are you bringing against this man.”

“I find it very difficult to believe that Pilate is uninformed about Jesus as he led on to these Jews. I believe there must have been the equivalent of what I would call “the Jesus file” in Pilate’s possession. Think about it for a minute. Today, the CIA, the FBI, Alexas, Siri... and who knows how many other federal agencies make it their business to keep track of any person or group.”

“Unwillingly, the Jews were fulfilling prophecy: “This happened to fulfill the word Jesus spoke indicating what kind of death he was going to die” (verse 32). Old Testament prophecies (such as Psalm 22, for example) had hinted that the Messiah would die by crucifixion. Stoning was the penalty the Old Testament law prescribed for blasphemy, but Jesus Himself had indicated that He would die by being “lifted up” (John 3:14, 8:28, 12:32).

Jesus was in authority over all that was happening. He knew what God’s plan was the entire time.

John 18:33-38a

33 Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

34 "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

35 "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

38 "What is truth?" retorted Pilate.

John does not record all the accusations that the Jews had made against Jesus, but Luke's Gospel indicates that Jesus was accused of several offenses:

1 Then the whole group of them rose up and brought Jesus before Pilate. 2 They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation, forbidding us to pay the tribute tax to Caesar and claiming that he himself is Christ, a king" (Luke 23:1-3).

“In verse 34, I believe that Jesus asked the question, “Is that your own idea, or did others talk to you about me?” Because he was seeing if Pilate had any spiritual interest in the King of kings personally.”

v 36- **Our kingdom is in heaven**- when we are faced with different or difficult decisions every day in life. Our decisions need to be thought out. We have to remember where we are from...the kingdom of heaven. Our authority comes from heaven.

There are times where we will be faced with difficult decisions in our lives and...

Our authority here on earth comes from heaven. He gives us the authority that He wants us to have. In other words, who's authority are you living for? Are you seeking God's authority or man's authority?

“Pilate did not miss the meaning of our Lord's words, which were clear enough for him: **“You are a king, then?”** (verse 37). Jesus answers, **“You say that I am a king”** (verse 38). Our Lord's response informs Pilate that he is right to understand Him to mean that He is the King of the Jews. **But Jesus wants it to be clear that His purpose in coming is revelation, not revolution.** He has come to testify to the truth. Those who belong to the truth pay attention to His words.”

John 18:38-40

With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. **39** But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the king of the Jews'?" **40** They shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

v 40- They shouted no give us Barabbas.- We choose Barabbas (mans authority) instead of choosing Jesus (his authority)

Isn't it interesting that Barabbas is substituted for Jesus, and Jesus for Barabbas? Jesus, the Prince of Peace, dies in the place of a revolutionary, intent on overthrowing Roman rule. Jesus, who restores the dead to life, is put to death in the place of a murderer. Jesus, who instructed Peter to put away his sword, and who restored the ear of Malchus, is portrayed as a greater threat to Roman rule than Barabbas. When man rebels against God, he always seems to substitute something for God. We look for the authority of man instead of the authority of Jesus.

John 19:1-7

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. **2** The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe **3** and went up to him again and

again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face.

Flogged is the sense of having someone beat or whipped for torture. "Then they take a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothes him in a purple robe... and they slapped him in the face."

Could you imagine the amazing Lord that we worship, and all of these things are being done to Him. I know for me, there are many times that I, quote unquote, slap Him in the face (seek for the approval of others). I don't always show the love that Christ shows me... I don't show the mercy that Christ shows me... I don't live according to His Word day in and day out.

4 Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." **5** When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

6 As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!"

But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."

7 The Jewish leaders insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."

"As he brought Jesus out for the Jews to behold this bloody and beaten king, Pilate informed them once again that he found no basis for condemning Him. The Jews cried out, demanding that Pilate crucify Jesus: **"Crucify him! Crucify him!"** Pilate saw that there was no way he could change their minds. And at this point, when his position and power were on thin ice with Rome, he sensed that he did not dare to anger these Jews once again. And so he responded, **"You take him and crucify him! For I find no reason for an accusation against him!"** (verse 6). The Jews quickly responded, **"We have a law, and according to our law he ought to die, because he claimed to be the Son of God!"**

In verse 7, the truth finally comes out of why Jesus should be put to death. "he claimed to be the Son of God."

As we continue to read in...

John 19:8-11

8 When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, **9** and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. **10** "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

11 Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

In verse 8, it says, "When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid..." "I think Pilate was thinking, 'What if Jesus really is who he claims to be?'"

So Pilate runs back inside and starts questioning Him again...

There are going to be times that we are going to be questioned or ridiculed about our faith, if not now then possibly in the future, we have got to make sure that we stand firm against mans authority as Jesus did.

19:11- Authority comes from God. Jesus is talking with pilot... Authority comes from God (comes from above.)

Romans 13:1 says, "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is not authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."

John 19:12-16

12 From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."

13 When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). **14** It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

"Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

15 But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"

"Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked.

"We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

16 Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

What a sad scene this must have been. To see all of this happening to the One you have been following since He asked and the One you love, the One you believe in, the One you live for, and He is now being "handed over to be crucified."

Just one quick thing this morning... How are you using the authority that God has given to you?

Are we like the Jewish religious leaders who put their hope and trust in seeking the authority of Caesar? Or are we putting out hope and trust in seeking the authority of Christ, and using the authority He has given to us for Him?

We need to make sure, day in and day out, that the authority that Christ has given us is being used to honor and

glorify His Kingdom. We want to make sure we are doing what His Word commands us to do.

We need to seek for Jesus' authority and not man's authority.

SGL - Questions:

1. Think back to growing up: can you remember any authority figure that had a great impact on your life (i.e. teacher, coach, etc)?
2. Has there ever been a time in your life when you challenged authority? What was the outcome?
3. How do you define authority?
4. Read John 18:28 - 30. Why did the Jewish leaders take Jesus to Roman authority? What do you find interesting about Pilate's response?
5. In Pilate's questioning of Jesus, we see that he finds no fault in Him and most likely finds Jesus to not be a threat to his authority. What do you think motivated Pilate to continue his judgement on Jesus?

6. Read Romans 13:1-2. What does this tell us about authority? Why do you think it is so important for us to recognize and obey authority?
7. Do you believe Pilate wanted anything to do with the trial of Jesus? What makes you think that, and try to find some Bible support of your answer. In the end, what did Pilate do?
8. Why do you think we seek out the approval and authority of others if our true identity and authority come from God?
9. This week, purposely meditate on to whose authority you are submitting.