



*That You May*  
**HAVE LIFE**

A STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*women's*  
BIBLE STUDY



women's | BIBLE STUDY

LESSON *Sixteen*

Not Guilty

**J**esus was sentenced to death by the Jewish authorities, and the trial was taken before the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilot. This trial took place in front of the religious leaders, then alone with Jesus, and lastly, in front of the crowds. Jesus communicated two things. First, that He is the King of a heavenly Kingdom and second, that all authority of those crucifying Him was given to them by God. Nothing taking place was out of God's sovereign control.

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## CAIAPHAS

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While the trial with Caiaphas is not detailed in John, you can read more about it in Matthew 26:57-68.

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## PILATE

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Pontius Pilate was the Roman Governor of Judea during the time of Jesus.

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## HEADQUARTERS

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The headquarters were for the Roman military governor whenever he was in Jerusalem. He traveled there during feasts to make sure everyone kept the peace.<sup>86</sup>

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## DEFILED

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Jewish law stated that entering the homes of Gentiles made them ceremonially unclean, meaning they could not eat the Passover meal. However, note the irony: The Jewish leaders were worried about their own cleanliness before God, yet they were about to murder His Son.<sup>87</sup>

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## NEW CASE

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The Jews wanted Pilate to simply confirm Jesus' death sentence, however, from his language it is clear that Pilate opened a new case.

**Read John 18:28-19:16a before answering the following questions.**

1. From this entire section, what was the primary accusation the Jews made against Jesus? Why might this be worthy of a death sentence?

**Read John 18:28-32.**

2. From verses 28-29, explain the circumstances surrounding Jesus' trial before Pontius Pilate.
3. What was the Jewish leaders' goal for Jesus and why did they go to Pilate for a trial? How could they believe in God and desire such a thing?
4. Everything Jesus told the disciples about the death He would soon die was now coming true. Considering He was both fully God and fully man, what might He have been feeling as He underwent trial? What might He have been thinking?

Read John 18:33-40.

5. Using the chart below, fill out what you learn about God's Kingdom and Jesus as King in this section. (See Appendix: Kingdom of God)

GOD'S KINGDOM	JESUS AS KING

Considering what you know about Jesus from the Gospel of John, what kind of King is He?

6. Read Luke 23:18-25 and note what you learn about Barabbas. Why would the crowd choose to save this man over Jesus, the only One who could give them life?
7. The Jewish leaders were blinded to the truth, unable to see that Jesus was God. And Pilate, the Roman Governor, recognized Jesus' innocence but was unwilling to acknowledge Him as God. Think about the leaders of our day. What is at stake when a leader acknowledges the true identity of Jesus?

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## KINGDOM

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For more on God's Kingdom, read Matthew 13, Mark 10:14-15, John 3:3, and James 2:5.

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## VERSE 32

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Verse 32 fulfills John 12:31-33 where Jesus tells His disciples He will be "lifted up from the earth." This meant He would die by crucifixion, the main way Romans would carry out a death sentence during this time.

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## UNDERSTAND

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Because Jesus was both fully God and fully human, we are able to identify in some ways to the thoughts and feelings He must have had as He went to the cross.

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## NEW TRIAL

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Pilate made it clear that he did not believe the Sanhedrin (a group of Jewish religious leaders) were correct about Jesus. Therefore, he held his own trial before executing a potentially innocent man.<sup>88</sup>

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## MAJESTY

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"In a scene full of dramatic power John pictures for us the lowly majesty of Jesus confronting the proud majesty of Rome's representative."<sup>89</sup>

## DEFINE

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To flog is to “beat with a whip or stick as punishment...” Sometimes these beatings, often done with a leather whip with pieces of bone or metal attached to the end, were so severe that the victims died. It was a brutal form of torture, one that would have been excruciatingly painful for Jesus.<sup>90</sup>

## FLOGGED

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“Pilate orders a flogging which, he thinks, will meet the Jews’ demand that Jesus be punished and perhaps evoke a little sympathy for him as well...” The hope is that the flogging would sway the crowd’s desire for His crucifixion.<sup>91</sup>

## LEVITICUS 24:16

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This was not the first time Jesus is accused of blasphemy. See John 5:18; 8:58-59; 10:33, 36. Likely this accusation comes from Leviticus 24:16 which says, “Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him...”

Read John 19:1- 16a.

8. Jesus claimed to be King and the Romans mocked him. What did they say and do to Jesus?
  
9. Jesus proved through this entire section that He, not any government or religious leader has total authority. What does this teach you about authority in your own life? (See John 10:17-18, Romans 13:1 for help.) What then are the implications for your relationships with your boss, spouse, friends, and others?

“I have no Master but thee, no law but thy will,  
no delight but thyself, no wealth but that thou givest,  
no good but that thou blessest, no peace but  
that thou bestowest. I am nothing but that thou  
makest me, I have nothing but that I receive from thee,  
I can be nothing but that grace adorns me.”

– *The Valley of Vision, A Collection of Puritan Prayers*<sup>92</sup>

10. In this week’s Scripture, how many times does Pilate say that Jesus was innocent? Why did he still hand Jesus over to be crucified?

When have you, like Pilate, known the right thing but were swayed by the people around you to act otherwise? How can you avoid being swayed by others?

## VERSE 16A

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Evidently Pilate handed Jesus over to the Roman soldiers who would carry out His crucifixion.

11. The Jews claimed their only king was Caesar. In this statement, who were they rejecting? For help read Judges 8:23 and 1 Samuel 8:7.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. In John 12 Jesus was praised as He came into the city. The people shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel.” Now, only a week later, the crowds are shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Why the sudden shift? What happened?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Consider all the ways Jesus was mistreated in this section. Now, consider that He did this for you. Why did Jesus endure such humiliation and brutal pain for you? In your own words below, thank Him for His sacrifice.



## BIG IDEA

What is your biggest takeaway from this week's lesson?

Notes