

**not lawful.** They had not the power of capital punishment. **That the saying:** Matt. 20: 18, 19; John 12: 32.

**33. Then Pilate called Jesus:** to the judgment seat to investigate for himself. **Art thou?** a question of amused contempt.

**34. Sayest thou?** "Is that your own opinion or the opinion of the Jews?" A just distinction; for on it depended whether the word "king" was used in a political or a spiritual sense.

**35. Am I a Jew?:** A sneer. **What hast thou done?** What crime?

**36, 37. My kingdom.** Jesus now explains that His kingdom is spiritual. **Art thou;** see above on v. 33. **Thou sayest:** an affirmative answer. **To this end;** that is, to become a king. **Bear witness..... truth;** by revealing the will of God.

**38. What is truth?** words of sceptical indifference. **I find no fault;** i.e., upon which to condemn Him.

**39, 40. Will ye therefore?** He appeals to the people thinking that they will save Jesus; but they choose Barabbas (see Mark 15: 11).

#### ASK YOURSELF

In the last lesson where were Jesus and Peter? At what time of day? Who was Pilate? Where did he reside? Why did not the Jews themselves put Jesus to death?

##### Juniors

**28, 29.** Why was Christ taken to the judgment hall of Pilate? Why was He taken early in the morning? What scruple had the Jews about entering the judgment hall? What were their feelings towards Christ? (Matt. 27: 18.)

**30-32.** What is a malefactor? Which law, Jewish or Roman, did Pilate say Christ had broken? How were blasphemers punished? (Lev. 24: 16.)

**33-36.** What were Pilate's first words to Jesus? How did He answer? In what tone did Pilate speak? (v. 35.) Why does he ask Christ for an account of Himself? What did Christ say of His Kingdom?

**39, 40.** What custom was observed at the Passover? Whom did the Jews prefer to Jesus? What was this man's character? (Mark 15: 11.)

##### Seniors

**28-32.** What was the charge brought against Christ? Who alone had now the right to inflict the death penalty?

**33-37.** Why did Pilate take Jesus into the judgment hall for a private interview? How did Christ's appearance correspond with the title "King of the Jews"? What was Pilate's last question? (v. 38.) Why did He not wait for an answer?

**38-40.** To whom did Pilate now send his prisoner? (Luke 23: 5-12.) Who moved the people in favor of Barabbas? (Mark 15: 11.) What did Pilate do before finally delivering up Jesus? (Matt. 27: 24.) What awful thing did the Jews say? (Matt. 27: 25.) To what calamity did the choice of the Jews lead? (Matt. 23: 34-38.)

#### PRACTICAL

1. We are indignant at the Jews because, whilst they would not defile themselves by going into Pilate's judgment hall, they clamored for the blood of an innocent man; but let us be careful lest we, too, are more anxious about appearing good than being good.

2. Pilate's weakness was that he was a time-

server. He was ready to sacrifice everything—truth, honor, his feelings of humanity, his common-sense, to hold on to office.

3. To what lengths will unreason and passion not carry men. Barabbas, the robber, is preferred to the very Son of God.

#### FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why was Jesus taken to the judgment hall of Pilate?

2. What does Jesus say was the great purpose for which He became a man?

3. Why did Pilate deliver Jesus to death, when he had already declared Him to be innocent?