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# UNEXPECTED KING

John 18:28-19:16a

## Tags

The Gospel of John, Jesus, house of Caiaphas, governor's headquarters, Passover, eat, Pilate, evil, judge, law, Jews, death, die, King of the Jews, Jew, nation, chief priests, kingdom, world, not of this world, servants, fighting, delivered, purpose, born, bear witness, truth, voice, no guilt, not guilty, Barabbas, robber, flogged, soldiers, crown of thorns, head, purple robe, hail, struck, hit, hands, behold the man, officers, crucify him, Son of God, afraid, authority, from above, greater sin, Caesar's friend, judgment seat, the stone pavement, Aramaic, Gabbatha, preparation, crucified

## Introduction

Pilate was in Jerusalem because it was Passover. He usually lived in Caesarea, but he needed to be at the headquarters in case there was any attempt at an insurrection. The Jewish leaders' early request to meet during a holy season indicated something was wrong. The man they presented as doing evil was different and unexpected. Pilate came out to address the crowd in deference to their religious needs, but he hoped to dismiss them and send them away. Pilate was not prepared for what would happen next.

The bloodthirsty crowd was there to make sure that Jesus was executed. Pilate knew his job was to keep the peace and deal with matters quickly. He questioned Jesus about whether or not he was the King of the Jews, but that charge could not stand up, and he declared him not guilty. He tried to release Jesus, but to his surprise, the crowd asked for a terrorist named Barabbas. He had Jesus brutally beaten in hopes that might satisfy the crowd, but they would accept nothing less than crucifixion. Dramatically, Pilate presented the UNEXPECTED KING to the crowd, and they used bullying, political maneuvering, and threats to get what they wanted—the sentence of crucifixion.

## Outline

You can be religious and have a heart far from God (v. 28).

Truth is not constructed or discovered, it is revealed by Jesus and recorded in his word because he is the truth (v. 40).

It is shocking to choose what kills instead of the King who saves (vv. 2-3). Fear without

remorse leads to hypocrisy, tyranny, and abuse (v. 8).

Jesus is the King and friend you need (v. 12).

The King you choose determines the final verdict (vv. 13-15).

### Application

Is your heart far from God?

Are you controlled by fear or faith? Who is  
your King?

### Questions

1. Have you ever just gone through the motions in worship? How would you describe it?
2. Why was the kind of death Jesus suffered important? (John 3:14-15; 8:28; 12:32; Deuteronomy 21:23, Galatians 3:13)
3. What is the Kingdom of God? (Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 4:20; Colossians 1:13-14; Hebrews 12:28; 2 Peter 1:5-11)
4. How does the fear of what others think control us? How do we move from fear to faith?
5. What steps can be taken daily to "Behold our King?" How will looking at and to Jesus change us?