

John 19: 1-16

1 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 struck him in the face. **4** Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "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 Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God." **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." **12** From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews 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 Passover Week, about the sixth hour. "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. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.

1. What was Pilate's dilemma in verse 4?
2. In verse 7, for what reason were the Jews killing Jesus?
3. What was Jesus saying by calling himself the Son of God?
(Also see John 5:18 "For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.")
4. In verse 8, why was Pilate afraid?
(Also see Matthew 27:17 "So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" 18 For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him. 19 While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him." 20 But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.")
 - a. In verse 9, what did Pilate consider a possibility?
5. According to verse 10, did Pilate have the authority to release Jesus?
6. From the discussion in verse 10, does it sound like Jesus could have persuaded Pilate to release Him?
7. According to verse 10, did Jesus make any effort to persuade Pilate? Why not?
8. What does Jesus imply from verse 11?
9. If Pilate had the power to release Jesus then according to verses 12-16, why didn't he?
10. For what similar reasons to we reject Jesus?