

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

What did we miss between verses 27 and 28? The Sanhedrin voted to condemn Jesus and take Him to the palace where Pilate was living. The Sanhedrin could condemn, but only the Romans could legally execute.

18:28 The Jewish leaders' goal was to have Pilate sanction their decision and carry out an execution before the crowds realized what was happening.

18: 28 The Jews wanted to avoid any superficial defilement but cared nothing about the moral defilement of rejecting the work of God before their eyes.

18:30 The Jews knew their charges against Jesus would not stand up in a Roman court. Instead of stating the charges clearly, they beat around the bush.

18:31 Pilate was not anxious to get involved in a Jewish court case, especially at Passover, so he tried to evade the issue.

18:32 A person under God's curse was to be displayed (hanged) on a tree as a sign of judged sin (Deuteronomy 21:23; Galatians 3:13). Jesus was to bear the curse of the law and become a curse for us.

18:34 Jesus was not evading the issue. He was forcing Pilate to clarify *for his own soul*.

18:36 Jesus spoke in terms Pilate could understand to a degree—military strength and geographic location.

18:36 No earthly king would allow himself to be captured so easily.

18:37 Jesus was more interested in removing the shackles from Pilate's mind than in defending Himself. Even at His death, His focus was on reaching the heart of the person.

18:38 Jesus had just told Pilate, in no uncertain terms, that He was a King from another realm; that He had come for a specific purpose; that those who responded to Him would hear and know the truth and would be set free.

In those brief moments that Pilate spent with the Lord of Glory, he quickly discerned that Jesus was not a dangerous subversive. He recognized that Jesus was the victim of a Sanhedrin plot.

18:38 Pilate's declaration of innocence was important and correct. Jesus would die as Passover lamb—without blemish.

GREEK WORDS

Martyreō (mar-too-reh'-o)—to be a witness, give [evidence]