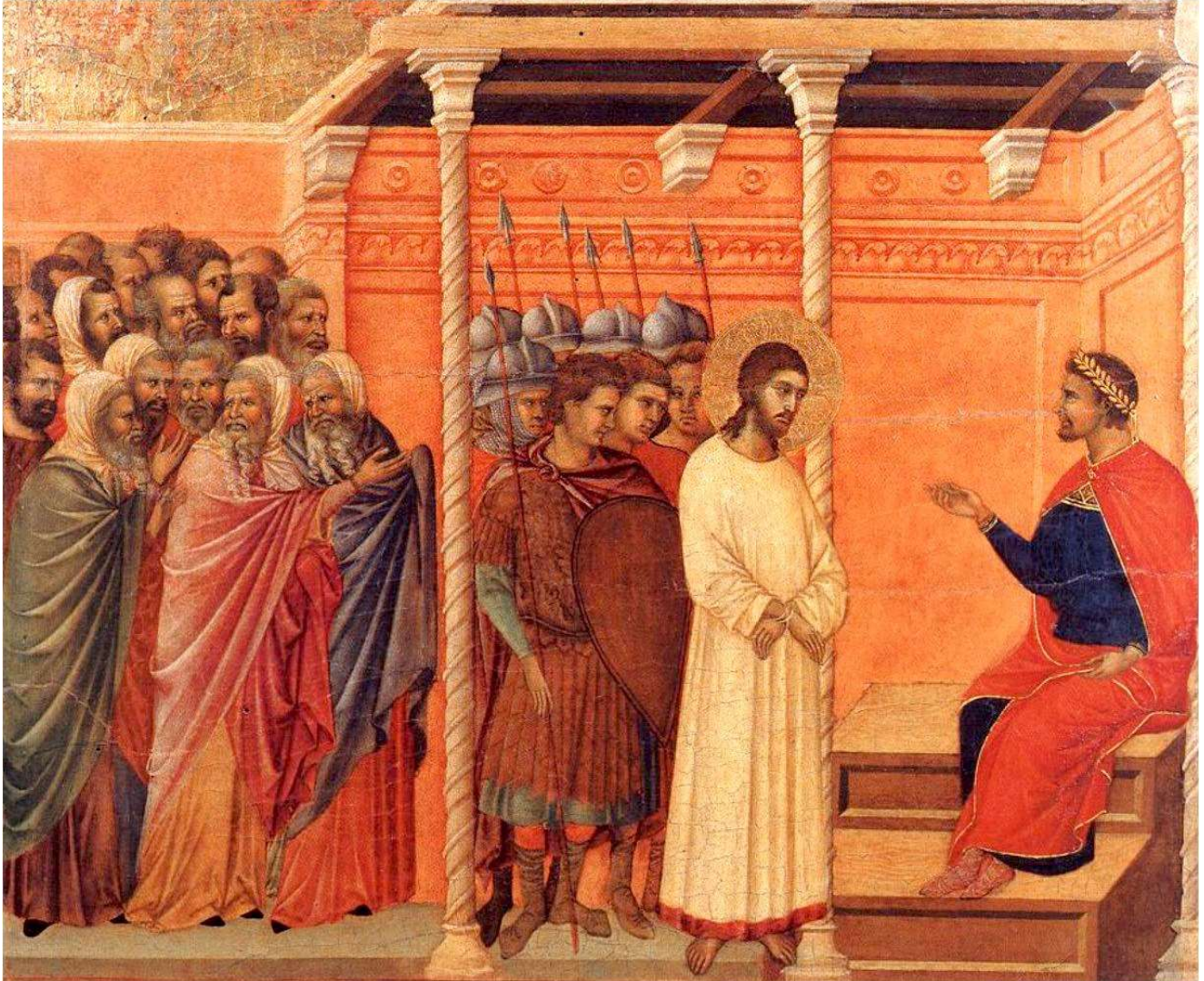


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Politics on Trial
John 18:28-19:16
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Background

We gather in worship to remind ourselves who God is, what he has done in Christ and what he is doing through his Spirit. Our desire is to praise God and receive afresh his Spirit in us, to affirm that we are family reconciled one to another and to be empowered to reach out to the world.

Sermon Text: John 18:28-19:16 (ESV)

A. *Outside Pilate's Headquarters (18:28-32)*

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went **outside** to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." ³² This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

B. Inside (18:33-38a)

³³ So Pilate **entered** his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the **King** of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My **kingdom** is not of this world. If my **kingdom** were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my **kingdom** is not from the world." ³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a **king**?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a **king**. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

C. Outside (18:38b-40)

After he had said this, he went back **outside** to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the **King** of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

X. Inside Jesus Crowned (19:1-3)

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³ They came up to him, saying, "Hail, **King** of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands.

C' Outside (19:4-8)

⁴ Pilate went **out** again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶ When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷ The Jews

answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God."⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid.

B' Inside (19:9-12)

⁹ He **entered** his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.¹⁰ So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?"¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore, he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."¹² From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a **king** opposes Caesar."

A' Outside (19:13-16)

¹³ So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus **out** and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha.¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your **King!**"¹⁵ They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your **King?**" The chief priests answered, "We have no **king** but Caesar."¹⁶ So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What stands out to you the most from this sermon?

2. Sermon Questions

- Richard Neuhaus said "Every day of the year is a good day to think more deeply about Good Friday" Do you also think so?
- Pilate knew Jesus is not guilty yet he delivered Jesus over to be crucified. Why?

c. The chief priests answered “We have no king but Cassar”. They failed to acknowledge Yahweh as their King as religious leaders. Why did they fail?

d. “The line between good and evil runs through every human heart” (Solzhenitsyn in Neuhaus, 19). Sin has invaded, permeated and infected every single cell of our bodies. we turn to *“the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”* John (1:29). How does John connect the death of Jesus with the slaughter of the Passover lambs?

e. Jesus is standing before all of us today, as he stood before Pilate and the religious leaders.

- What do you want to say to him?
 - As Pilate asked all sorts of questions, what question do you want to ask him?
 - As Pilate made powerful declarations, what declaration do you want to say about him?
 - Can you say with Pilate, “I find no guilt in this man,” or “Behold the true human,” or “Behold your king”?
 - Look and see your king.