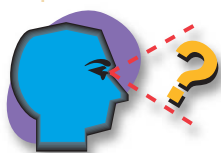
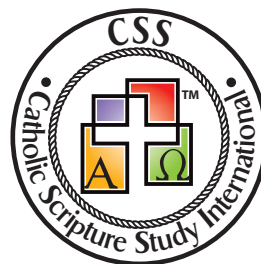


John



Responses to the Questions

NOTE: BE SURE TO ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS YOURSELF BEFORE READING THE ANSWERS IN ORDER TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS STUDY.

Read John 18:28-40

1. The Praetorium was the headquarters or in this case the palace of the governor of the province who was Pontius Pilate. It was the time of the Jewish Feast of Unleavened Bread, better known as Passover. Jewish Law prohibited Jews from entering the house of a Gentile because they would then be considered defiled and would not be able to take part in or celebrate the feast. John wants us to see the irony of these men staying outside to avoid being defiled while they were plotting the murder of Jesus.
2. There might be several reasons. There was no love loss between Pilate and the Jews. And Pilate knew that "it was out of envy that they had delivered him up" (Matthew 27:18). So he may simply have enjoyed making them squirm a bit. Or perhaps it was because he simply didn't know Jesus, but reckoned that if they hate him that much, he might be a useful tool to make them crawl. John doesn't say, so we can only guess.
3. Luke 23:2 lists the charges as: 1) perverting the Jewish nation, 2) forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, and 3) saying that he himself is Christ, a king.
4. As mentioned in the *Points To Ponder* section, Pilate had a record of provoking the Jews and causing disputes that would come to the attention of the Emperor. Pilate did not want to bring more negative attention to himself from the Emperor for fear of losing his position of authority. He preferred the Jews handle this business themselves, rather than he get involved with the execution of a man he felt was innocent.
5. Jews were under Roman rule and as such were not allowed to pass the death sentence on anyone. So they appealed to Pilate to do this for them by making it sound as though Jesus had ambitions to be king and therefore was a threat to Rome's Emperor.
6. Jesus had prophesied his death by crucifixion on more than one occasion (Matt. 20:19; John 3:14). God now uses the plots of the Jewish leaders to "write straight with crooked lines" as they conspire to put him to death in exactly the way he prophesied, without realizing that they are fulfilling his word.
7. Jesus answers Pilate by implying that the question needed clarification before he could answer. He aims to make clear to Pilate that he is not an earthly king and to show the speciousness of the claims of his accusers that he desires political power as a rival to Caesar.



Responses to the Questions (cont.)

8. He means that his kingship is spiritual, not political or earthly in any sense.
9. Pilate thought Jesus was innocent. He said that he found no crime in him and offered to release him (verse 39).
10. Verse 40 states that Barabbas was a robber. In Mark 15:7 we read that Barabbas was a murderer and insurrectionist. Nevertheless, they chose to free a thief and murderer and send the innocent, sinless Son of God to his death.