

**Title: Bad Day For Pilate - John 18 28-40**

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**Read:**

<sup>28-29</sup>They led Jesus then from Caiaphas to the Roman governor's palace. It was early morning. They themselves didn't enter the palace because they didn't want to be disqualified from eating the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and spoke. "What charge do you bring against this man?" <sup>30</sup>They said, "If he hadn't been doing something evil, do you think we'd be here bothering you?" <sup>31-32</sup>Pilate said, "You take him. Judge him by your law." The Jews said, "We're not allowed to kill anyone." (This would confirm Jesus' word indicating the way he would die.) <sup>33</sup>Pilate went back into the palace and called for Jesus. He said, "Are you the 'King of the Jews'?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you this about me?" <sup>35</sup>Pilate said, "Do I look like a Jew? Your people and your high priests turned you over to me. What did you do?" <sup>36</sup>"My kingdom," said Jesus, "doesn't consist of what you see around you. If it did, my followers would fight so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. But I'm not that kind of king, not the world's kind of king." <sup>37</sup>Then Pilate said, "So, are you a king or not?" Jesus answered, "You tell me. Because I am King, I was born and entered the world so that I could witness to the truth. Everyone who cares for truth, who has any feeling for the truth, recognizes my voice." <sup>38-39</sup>Pilate said, "What is truth?" Then he went back out to the Jews and told them, "I find nothing wrong in this man. It's your custom that I pardon one prisoner at Passover. Do you want me to pardon the 'King of the Jews'?" <sup>40</sup>They shouted back, "Not this one, but Barabbas!" Barabbas was a Jewish freedom fighter.

**Think:**

Pilate is having a bad day. Firstly he tells the Jews to take this problem of his hands and Judge Jesus for themselves. Then when they won't he ask Jesus to confess and take this problem out of his hands. Finally he says, "OK guys I can release one prisoner, so please take this problem of my hands." But still no joy. You see Jesus is persistent. Jesus knows that Gods will is for him to die on the cross for us, and that's what is going to happen. Gods is persistent with us as well. God doesn't give up on us just because we have made rubbish decisions in the past; no God sticks with us through thick and thin. God wanted you to hear about his Son Jesus and he was persistent with that until you stood up and took notice. Of course you can be stubborn and ignore him. But that does seem a little Pilate like. Personally I think being persistent in seeking Gods will for your life might be the better plan. What do you think?

**Pray:**

Father I am here again to ask once more that you show me what it is that you want me to do with my life. Father I ask that you show me every day. Amen.

**Action:**

To do what God wants in your life is the ultimate level to reach. Why not pick the front door to your home as a place to do this; and as you walk through it each day, pray that God guides you. Bye.