

Digging Deeper: John 18:28–40 – “The Civil Trial”

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Day 1

Read John 18:28–40. Today, our focus is the civil trial of our Lord. What observations can you make? What is the significance of this passage? Spend time praying to the Lord today, and prepare yourself for the week ahead. Give prayer to what’s coming as the trial leads to the eventual suffering, crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord.

Day 2

Read John 18:28. Think of the scene portrayed. Then, think of the irony of this—the high priests would not enter the “Gentile” house because the law would say it would defile them, while of course they were intent to see a innocent man punished. Today, consider our own sin and our Lord’s command to be holy even as I am holy—and also if you love me, keep my commands. Confess any sin today, and seek our Lord for His strength to walk in holiness.

Day 3

Read John 18:29–36. Gaze into the hypocrisy of trying to condemn an innocent man who is perfect in every way. Then, focus on verse 36 when our Lord states that His kingdom is not of this world. Read Revelation 11:15. Today, give some time to describe the differences between worldly kingdoms and the heavenly kingdom Jesus is pointing to here.

Day 4

Read John 18:37–38. Today’s focus is on “what is truth?” Our Lord says in verse 37, “everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.” Also, read John 1:1–2 and 17:17. So today the question is posed to you: What is truth? Today, pray through John 17:17 and its meaning for your life.

Day 5

Read John 18:39–40. Today, we have the sad description of the custom of releasing someone at the Passover and the crowd choosing a guilty robber over an innocent man. Read Joshua 25:15, and pray about the significance of our choices. Why did the crowd choose Barabbas? Today, pray over the broken world we live in and that we may always choose Jesus over the lies and idols of the world.

Day 6

Read John 18:28–40. According to most commentators, two sayings of Christ concerning his death were fulfilled by the Jews declining to *judge him according to their law*. *First*, He had said that he should be *delivered to the Gentiles* and that *they should put him to death* (Mt. 20:19; Mk. 10:33; Lu. 18:32, 33), and hereby that saying was fulfilled. *Secondly*, He had said that he should be crucified (Mt. 20:19; 26:2), *lifted up*, ch. 3:14; 12:32.¹ Today pray about the significance of Jesus precisely and exactly fulfilling these prophecies. Also read Hebrews 12:2, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Pray about what this means to you. Let us humble ourselves and exalt our Lord as we wrap up the week.

¹ Henry, M. (1994). [*Matthew Henry’s commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume*](#) (pp. 2040–2041). Peabody: Hendrickson.