



## International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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### John 19:8-16 Study Hints for Discussion

[Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further](#) are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [Class Preparation Guide](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

#### **1. Why do you think Pilate was “more afraid than ever”?**

He was probably extremely impressed by Jesus’ previous answers to him. They were not the answers of a common criminal or revolutionary. They were the answers of a wise spiritual person, and this made him afraid of what type of person Jesus might be, because Jesus had said that His Kingdom was not of this world. When he heard that Jesus had claimed to be the Son of God, he was more afraid than ever, because Jesus acted and spoke as though He could be the Son of God.

#### **2. Why do you think Jesus refused to answer Pilate?**

Jesus had already answered the question and had told Pilate the truth. He did not need to tell Pilate again and argue about the issue. He knew that Pilate did not belong to the truth and would not listen to His voice. John needed to learn that he (and other Christians) would not need to answer every question either when he (and they) would later be put on trial for his (their) faith in Jesus.

### **3. Why do you think Jesus finally chose to answer Pilate?**

Pilate claimed to have an ultimate power over Jesus and His destiny that Jesus knew Pilate did not have; so, Jesus told Him the truth before Pilate, the Romans with Pilate, and John who was most likely with Jesus. John needed to hear Jesus' answer so he could tell others Jesus' statement. Jesus went to the cross on His terms and not on the terms of Pilate or the chief priests who wanted Him crucified.

### **4. What did the Jews (the chief priests and the police) cry out when Pilate tried to release Jesus?**

They told Pilate that if he released Jesus that he was no friend of the Roman emperor. The chief priests would make certain that their charge would get back to the emperor and that would get Pilate in trouble with the emperor and that might cost him his job or his life.

### **5. When Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" what did the chief priests say and what did that reveal about their relationship with God?**

They told Pilate that they had no king but the Roman emperor. As Jews, the Old Testament teaches that Yahweh, the LORD, is their King. They proved they were not true Jews; they were not spiritual Jews. As Jesus had said, their father was the devil. In John 8:44-45, Jesus told them, "You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me." Like Pilate, they did not belong to the truth.

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