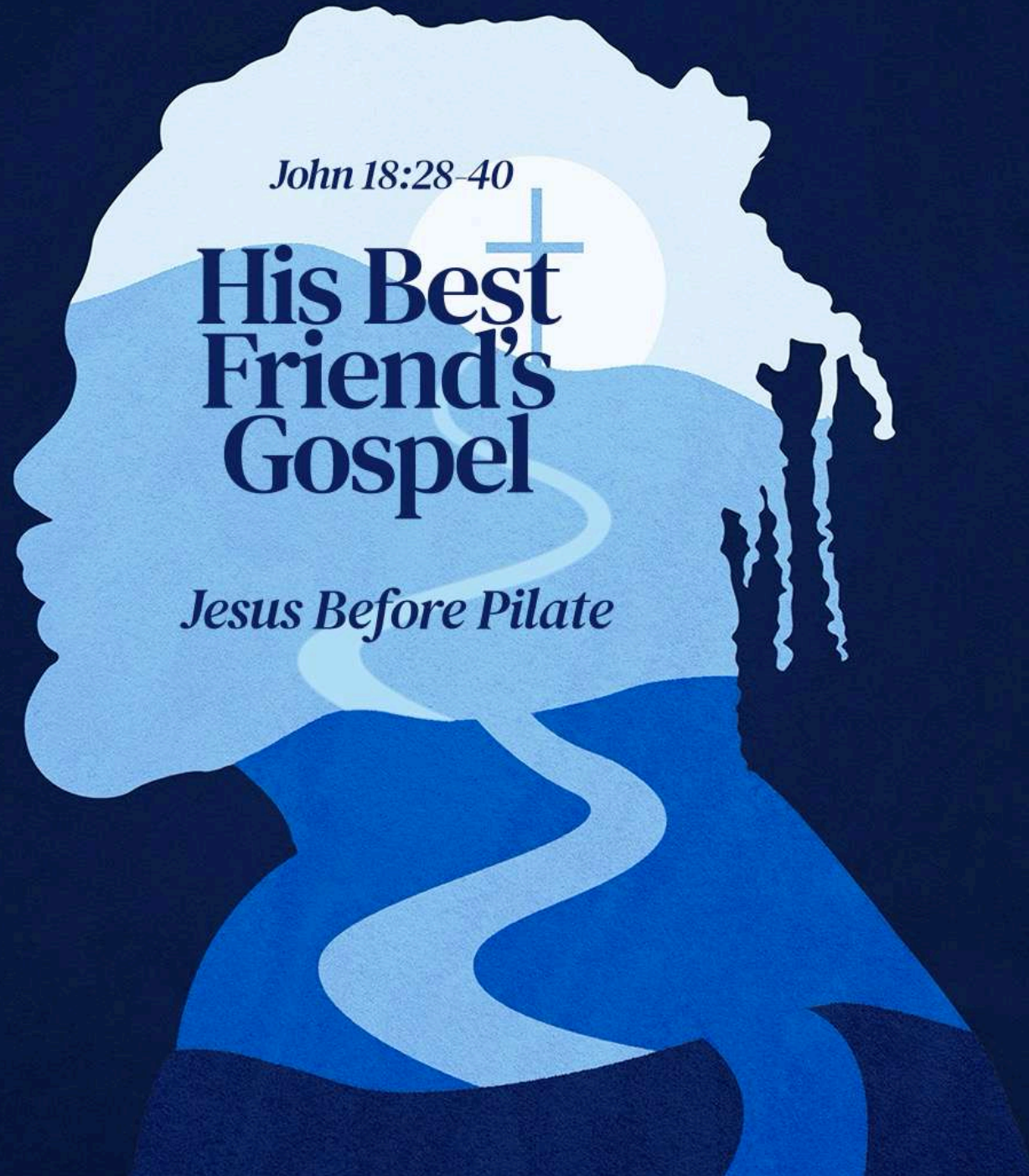


*John 18:28-40*

# His Best Friend's Gospel

*Jesus Before Pilate*









Æ14 Prutah  
**Procurator under Tiberius  
Pontius Pilate**  
14–37 AD  
GBC5 Hendin 1341  
Hendin 6370



TIBEPHOY KAICAPOC LI  
Simpulum

IOY IA KAICAPOC,  
three ears of grain tied  
together

Æ15 Prutah  
**Procurator under Tiberius  
Pontius Pilate**  
14–37 AD  
GBC5 Hendin 1342  
Hendin 6371



TIBEPHOY KAICAPOC  
lituus right

L IZ  
within wreath

Æ16 Prutah  
**Procurator under Tiberius  
Pontius Pilate**  
14–37 AD  
GBC5 Hendin 1343  
Hendin 6372



TIBEPHOY KAICAPOC  
lituus right

LIH  
within wreath



<sup>28</sup> 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.

<sup>29</sup> So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

*John 18:28–40*

*ESV*





<sup>30</sup> They answered him, “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.” <sup>31</sup> 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.” <sup>32</sup> This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.





<sup>33</sup> So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” <sup>35</sup> Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?”





<sup>36</sup> 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.”





<sup>37</sup> 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.” <sup>38</sup> Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him.





<sup>39</sup> 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?” <sup>40</sup> They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber.





## *Three Agendas, One Plan.*

- The Jews and Romans had no love for each other. Jewish leaders would not have involved Pilate if they could have avoided it.
- Need the empire's permission to use capital punishment, but Pilate gives them permission to do so themselves.
- They kick it back to him, and try to insist the empire do their dirty work, to keep their hands clean during Passover.
- The Jews intention is to use the empire to rid themselves of a troublemaker.
- Pilate placates them to try and prevent an uprising.
- But God superintends it all, in order to fulfill what was written, and “to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.”





<sup>33</sup> So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

*John 18:33*

*ESV*





## *“Are you the king of the Jews?”*

- Sometimes our translations capture the words, but not the tone.
- Pilate is not asking a question, he’s scoffing “Are *YOU* the king of the Jews.” More like “Really, this guy?”
- “I find no guilt in him” — he’s not saying “I find this man innocent” he’s saying “I don’t find him to be **credible** as the kind of insurrectionist you’ve claimed he is”
- Jesus turns it around “*Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?*” — Don’t take their word for it, who do you say I am.
- Everyone is ultimately required to make their own decision about who He is.
- Jesus demands a personal response.





## “What is Truth?”

- In rejecting Jesus claims about himself, Pilate asks this question, which really resonates today.
- We live in a “post-truth” world, where for many we are not only allowed, but encouraged to say “I reject your reality, and substitute my own”
- But Jesus rejects this premise and appeals to an absolute, objective source of truth.

“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.”

- There is absolute, objective truth — that which God himself declares and ordains — and Jesus claims to be the source of that truth.
- To know truth is to listen to Him. To understand truth is to hear him, and to follow.
- But the question remains for each of us — Will you accept it?

