

9-23 2009

#19 JOHN C 19, Willhauck C 12 Jesus Before Pilate

I Introductions and announcements, joys and concerns.

II Prayer.

III Review: Jesus' last discourse ends with the prayer in C 17. The narrative moves briskly into C 18, the arrest of Jesus by an armed detail led by Judas. Jesus is taken to Annas, the former high priest who is respected because of his experience and prestige. The questions by Annas are intended to reveal whether Jesus' followers could be a threat to continue the Jesus movement. There was no evidence for this so, when morning comes, only Jesus is taken to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, 26-36 AD.

IV Overview: on 10-14-90, we reenacted the hearing before Pilate. We assumed that John's text is condensed so we filled in the dialogue. We will do the reenactment then discuss the impact of Roman rule on Judea.

V For the reenactment we need four readers: Narrator- Helen
Pilate- Tracy High Priest- Gene Jesus- JB
The rest of the class will be the crowd.

VI Discuss.

1. Did Pilate have reason to be uneasy about Jesus' trial? Mt 27:19
2. How serious is the threat in Jn 19:12?
3. Pious tradition has treated Pilate as a heroic figure who tried to rescue Jesus, even a crypto-Christian (Tertullian). By the sixth century, he was a saint and a martyr in the Coptic Church.

The real record on Pilate is known from Tacitus, first century Roman historian; Philo, an educated Alexandrian Jew, 15BC-50 AD, and Josephus. the Pharisee historian who lived the last part of his life in Rome on a stipend from the emperor. Philo quotes Herod Agrippa, grandson of Herod the Great, in a letter to Gaius Caesar (Caligula), emperor 37-41, that Pilate was "inflexible, stubborn, cruel." Pontius Pilate used such severity against the Samaritans, Ant Jews 18.4, that he was recalled to Rome by Tiberius in 36. Tiberius died in 37 before Pilate's case could be heard. His successor, Gaius or Caligula, banished Pilate to Gaul where he died in 41, probably a forced suicide.

4. Josephus, 37-100, wrote in The Antiquities of the Jews, 18.3.3, "Pilate, at the suggestion of prominent men amongst us, had condemned Jesus to death." Why was Jesus condemned?

VII Next time: John C 19, Willhauck C 12 "It is finished."

GMx