

## **I Have the Power**

John 18:28 – 19:16

by Don Falkos

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Early in the morning the Jewish leaders took Jesus to the headquarters of Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, and accused him of sedition. "He claims to be the king of the Jews and the Son of God." Pilate wanted nothing to do with them, but they insisted. "We don't have the legal right to execute this man. You do!"

Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus said, "My kingship doesn't derive its authority from this world."

"So you are a king?"

"Yes! And everyone who loves truth recognizes me."

"Truth! What is truth?"

During Passover it was customary for a prisoner to be released. Pilate offered Jesus. But the crowd demanded Barabbas, a revolutionary.

Pilate said to Jesus, "Do you realize I have the power to set you free or to crucify you?"

Jesus replied, "You have no power over me at all except what has been given to you from above."

Pilate had Jesus flogged. The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They threw a purple robe around his battered body and they mocked him and slapped his face.

Pilate tried to release Jesus, but the crowd shouted, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar!"

Pilate knew Jesus was innocent. But he didn't see any way out. He presented Jesus and said, "Here is your king."

The mob shouted, "Crucify him!"

"You want me to crucify your king?"

"We have no king but Caesar."

It was about noon on the Day of Preparation; the Passover lambs were about to be sacrificed in the Temple; and Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.