

**CHRIST'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**  
 The Gospel of John: The Deity and Teaching of Jesus Christ  
**"The Authority Above All Authority"**  
 John 19:9-16 NKJV

**John 19:1-9 NKJV** [9] and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. [10] Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" [11] Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." [12] From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar." [13] When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. [14] Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" [15] But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" [16] Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away.

**Main Points**

1. Pilate Thinks He Has Power — vv. 10–11 *Pilate tells Jesus he has power to release Him or crucify Him. But Jesus reminds him that his authority only exists because God allowed it.*
2. The Leaders Choose Caesar Over Christ — vv. 12–15 *When people reject Christ, they will always bow to something else.*
3. The King Is Condemned to Save Rebels — v. 16 *Jesus was rejected by men so sinners could be received by God.*

**Instruction** (2 Tim 3:16): What is God telling me?

**Inspiration** (Romans 8:16): How is the Holy Spirit moving me?

**Imitator of Christ** (Ephesians 5:1): How will I serve God by imitating Jesus?

**My prayer this week:**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Earthly authority is real, but it becomes dangerous when proud people forget they are accountable to God. *What does Pilate's claim of power reveal about the danger of authority without submission to God?*
  
2. *What does Jesus mean by "greater sin," and what does this reveal about responsibility and accountability before God? (19:11)*
  
3. Pilate acts unjustly and refuses to obey the truth. *Why is Pilate still guilty if God is sovereign over the cross?*
  
4. *What is one thing the Holy Spirit taught you in this passage that you can apply to your life today in obedience to our Lord?*

**Bible Reference NKJV**

Galatians 6:3 NKJV For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Romans 13:1 NKJV Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Matthew 28:18 NKJV And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Luke 12:48 NKJV But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

Proverbs 29:25-26 NKJV The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe. [26] Many seek the ruler's favor, But justice for man comes from the LORD.

John 5:22-23 NKJV For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, [23] that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 NKJV [9] Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. [10] For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Revelation 19:11,16 NKJV [11] Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. [16] And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Acts 3:14-15 NKJV But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, [15] and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

Matthew 27:24-25 NKJV When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." [25] And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."