

Powerful Rulers

What's an example of a rule you follow, but only because something bad might happen to you if you don't?

Read John 18:28-19:22.

1. Why did the religious rulers take Jesus to the Roman governor Pilate?
 - A. They were good friends.
 - B. In order to kill someone, they needed permission from the Roman ruler.
 - C. Passover was about to begin and they were busy planning that.
 - D. Jesus threatened the power of the religious rulers.
 - E. Jesus threatened the power of the Roman ruler(s).
 - F. Their kingdom lacked power.
 - G. They were just playing games.
 - H. Jesus had more power than they had.
 - I. Other.

2. Why didn't Pilate think Jesus was guilty or deserving of death?
 - A. Jesus wasn't guilty.
 - B. Jesus didn't deserve death.
 - C. Pilate didn't know enough about the situation to make a ruling.
 - D. Pilate's wife gave him clues (see Matthew 27:19).
 - E. Religious disagreements aren't reason enough to kill someone.
 - F. Jesus had no power.
 - G. It was fine to punish Jesus, but killing Him was taking it too far.
 - H. Other.

3. What did Jesus mean "My kingdom is not of this world" (vs. 36)?
 - A. Christ's kingdom is in heaven.
 - B. His kingdom is so different from worldly kingdoms, they have to be compared.
 - C. This challenged Pilate's perspective of what truly matters.
 - D. It wasn't a threat to Pilate, his power, or his position.
 - E. His kingdom includes much more than just this world.
 - F. The territory Christ wanted was the hearts of people, not their land.
 - G. It operates on opposite purposes and practices.
 - H. The power players of this world come and go; Christ is eternal.
 - I. Other.

4. What is truth (vs. 37-38)?
- A. Nobody knows for sure.
 - B. Pilate didn't know.
 - C. Jesus knew.
 - D. It's Jesus.
 - E. It's what Jesus reveals.
 - F. It changes all the time.
 - G. It lasts forever.
 - H. You only discover it when God reveals it to you.
 - I. Other.

5. Rank (1-8) these people from most powerful to least powerful, and what gives each their power:

<i>NAME</i>	<i>WHAT GIVES THEM THEIR POWER?</i>
_____ Pilate	_____
_____ Roman soldiers	_____
_____ Religious rulers	_____
_____ Jesus	_____
_____ Christ's disciples	_____
_____ Barabbas	_____
_____ The crowd	_____
_____ Other: _____	_____

6. Why was "King Jesus" crucified?
- A. Pilate ordered it.
 - B. Satan was out to get Jesus.
 - C. It was better that one man die rather than the whole nation (see John 11:50).
 - D. Christ's kingdom wasn't welcomed by those who were ruling.
 - E. It was the worst form of punishment by the rulers at that time.
 - F. Jesus laid down His life on His own terms.
 - G. Everything is upside down—those crucified are the greatest.
 - H. Jesus died so we can live.
 - I. Other.

7. In which kingdom do you live? Are you part of the majority or minority?

8. Where is Christ's kingdom right now? How do you know?