

# “THE PETTY RULERS AND THE POWERFUL POTENTATE”

John 18:28-32

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## INTRODUCTION

Who is really in charge? Who is in charge of America?

- President Obama
- Democrats
- Republicans
- The House
- The Senate
- Judges—the Supreme Court
- State Governments
- Local governments

Or, maybe it could be the religious establishment?

- The World Council of Churches
- The National Council of Churches
- The National Association of Evangelicals
- The Southern Baptist Convention
- The Assemblies of God
- The LDS Church
- The Fundamental Baptist Fellowship
- The local church pastor

These are not all bad! But from God’s perspective, none of them are in charge.

In Jesus’ time there were petty political and religious leaders who thought that they were very powerful and that they had things under control. However, in reality, a **“small time” teacher and prophet from Galilee had more power than them both.** *It was His agenda that was important, and it was His plans that would be fulfilled.* The religious and political leaders had their parts to play in the divine drama, but it was really Jesus Christ—the Holy, Heaven-sent Son of God—who was running everything.

The same is true today. The rulers and leaders may make their plans, but it is ultimately only His plans that will matter and that will result in any lasting fruit.

## **YOU NEED TO SUBMIT YOUR LIFE TO THE WISE AND POWERFUL CONTROL OF THE MASTER—Jesus Christ.**

### I. THE PETTY RELIGIOUS RULERS (Caiaphas, Annas, Sanhedrin, etc.)

#### A. Their religious plot

Bring Jesus to the political ruler so as to get their way without causing a riot of the common people. Bring Jesus early in the AM before most were stirring.

1. Already knew the determination that they wanted—predetermined judgment

2. Had no real accusation (29)—“evil-doer”—doing bad things always! (30)
3. Had no real power—totally dependent upon Rome for executions. (31)

B. Their Mixed-up Value System (28)

1. Avoiding defilement—what kind? How long would it last?
2. Eat the “Passover”. What was this? What Passover had Jesus and His disciples just eaten?
3. Yet, participate in the worst miscarriage of justice that the world has ever known.

C. Contemporary Misplaced Values

1. What Ought to be important?
  
2. What kinds of things do we sometimes make important?

II. THE PETTY POLITICAL RULER: (Pilate)

A. His Character

B. His Palace (Praetorium)

C. His Practice

- Let his subjects handle it if they wish.
- Fear of a dream which his wife had experienced.
- Fear of his subjects turning him in to higher authorities.

III. THE POWERFUL POTENTATE: King Jesus (cf. vv. 33 ff.)

A. He predicted and destined His own form of death (32).

- Crucifixion—the curse of hanging on a tree.
- A sacrificial and bloody form of death.
- The true Passover Lamb.
- A substitutionary form of death.

B. His word must be fulfilled—on the same level with Sacred Scripture.

CONCLUSION

Jesus is about to die! Does He act nervous and out of control with these petty religious and political rulers?

No, He is totally calm and in command—even in determining what form of death He is going to die! **Read Acts 2:22-24.**

Jesus is in command and has given us commands as to what is important and what jobs He wants us to do as a local church. *We must not get caught up in our own little petty issues and plans that might cause us to miss the big picture.*

The religious leaders had their agenda—and in order to keep it they were willing to turn Jesus over to the secular authorities to get rid of Him. What good is it to accomplish our plans if Jesus is not part of them? **You must submit your life to His wise and powerful control!**