

## *Pilate Discussion*

*Remember that these monologues are essentially historical fiction, based on the Scripture but filling in plausible subjective details, both emotional responses and motivations. Your first task is to decide if they are reasonable.*

*What things were probably going through Pilate's mind as Jesus was brought before him?*

*The Romans had allowed the Jews to follow their own Law except for executions. Why might that be?*

*Besides justice, what did he need to consider?*

*Is there Scriptural evidence that there had been a sort of "messiah hysteria"? (Acts 5:34 – 40)*

*What might be the reason(s) for that?*

*Does it make sense that Pilate was aware of the Jewish laws and customs and the peculiarities and vulnerabilities of the Jewish leaders?*

*Does it make sense that the Jewish leaders knew what buttons to push to influence Pilate?*

*What was Pilate looking for in his examination of Jesus?*

*What impressed him?*

*Why might he have asked, "What is truth?"*

*What might Pilate have expected from Herod? (See Matthew 14:5 – 11)*

*Was there reason to believe that the people would be satisfied with Jesus being the prisoner released at Passover when the alternative was a dangerous criminal?*

*What does this incident show us about the psychology of a crowd?*

*Was Pilate interested in the teaching or miracles of Jesus and did anyone bring up those subjects?*

*What does Pilate's insistence on keeping the sign "King of the Jews" on the cross mean?*

*Does the account of the incredible excuse brought forward by the guards of the tomb add to the credibility of the story?*

*Various traditions have Pilate either committing suicide or becoming a believer. Does either seem possible?*

*Did Pilate really have a choice?*