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Psalm 100:3

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Your Community. Your News.

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**WEEKLY WEATHER**



|        |         |  |
|--------|---------|--|
| Tue 01 | 82°/65° |  |
| Wed 02 | 88°/65° |  |
| Thu 03 | 89°/67° |  |
| Fri 04 | 92°/69° |  |
| Sat 05 | 92°/71° |  |
| Sun 06 | 91°/71° |  |
| Mon 07 | 90°/71° |  |



**Ms. Avery Pearl  
Pet Columnist**

# Pet Perspective

## Carrot Stealing Thief

Every morning Mimi and Pap give Ms Ivory and me a baby carrot to eat. Mimi says it's good for our teeth and digestion. Me, I say they are: Yummy! Ms Ivory agrees.

Well, Ms Ivory always takes mine. ALWAYS!

Any-woof, a girl can only take so much.

This morning Pap gave us our carrots. Ms Ivory devoured hers, like she always does. Then, you guessed it. She came over and expected me to just let her have mine, like I do ever day.

This morning though, she was in for a shock. I growled at her! I have never done that before. It scared her half to death and she YELPED! You would have thought I slapped her.

Good thing Mimi knew that I didn't hurt her or I would have been in T-R-O-U-B-L-E. Instead, Mimi told her that is what she gets for always stealing my carrot.

So, Pap took me in different room and gave me another one. He told Ms Ivory that it should have happened a long time ago that she can't keep taking things from me.

I wuff her so much but sometimes you have to stand up for yourself, no matter how cute your bully is. I don't think she was trying to be mean, she was just used to me letting her have her way.

Mimi says most dogs fight and stuff but, Ms Ivory and me never have. Although, I think she knows now, to keep her paws off my carrot!

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

Coalfield Genealogical and Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Senior Citizens Building at 6:00 PM.

Morgan County Republican Party meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion in Wartburg.

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**ED BUTLER**  
State Representative

*Wishing all of  
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— In Loving Memory —

**Betty Jo (Jody) Lindsay Summers, 63**



She is preceded in death by her mother, Pernie Mae Lindsay Maner; father Sam Lindsay; sister Karen Lindsay Hamby.

Jody was kind and gentle to everyone she met. She was specifically gifted with and understanding of mathematics. She enjoyed going to church, spending time with family and watching her favorite shows Ranger and Heartland. She will be missed, but we know her spirit lives on in those she touched, and she is singing in the choir of God.

Betty Jo (Jody) Lindsay Summers went to be with her personal Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on June 21, 2025. Jody loved her Christ, her family, her church family, and many friends, and her puppies. She was a devoted member of New Life Apostolic Church in Mossy Grove, Tennessee and was active in the Ladies Group.

Jody was born in Robbins, Tennessee on February 13, 1962 and died at home in Wartburg, Tennessee on June 21, 2025 surrounded by family.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 36 years, Richard and their precious children, daughter Sare of Wartburg; son Ben of Henderson, Ky.; sisters Debie (David) Rausch of Mount Juliet, Tn., Patty (Martin) Tanguay of Knoxville, Tn., Samantha (Daniel) Harrison of Allardt, TN.; brother Duke (Jennifer) Lindsay of Thomas-ton, Ga.; and many nieces and nephews who loved her.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at the New Life Apostolic Church in Harriman from 6:00-8:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 8:00 p.m. with Bishop Anthony Pemberton officiating. Graveside services will be Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in the Morgan Memorial Gardens.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Betty Jo (Jody) Summers.

**Margaret Helen Goodman, 77**



Goodman and wife Amanda, Hoyo Lynn Goodman and wife Leslie; grandchildren Logan Justice, Dillin (Madison) Goodman, Nathan (Shelby) Goodman, Allison Goodman, and Chloe Goodman; great grandchildren Evertt Goodman and Beckham Goodman; sisters-in-law Irene Cox and Verline Goodman and also survived by friends and a host of nieces, nephews and neighbors.

Margaret Helen Goodman, age 77 of Devonia, went to her new heavenly home on Wednesday, June 18, 2025.

Margaret was a homemaker and loving wife to Hoyo Goodman whom she loved so very much. Margaret was a Christian of the Baptist faith. She genuinely loved everyone. She had a heart as big as the sky.

She is preceded in death by her loving husband Hoyo Goodman; mother and dad Ruth and Eli Cox; brothers Donald Cox, Clarence Cox, Charles Cox, A.J. Cox and sister Marie Fee; special brothers-in-law Frank Goodman and Dale Goodman.

Margaret leaves behind her children, daughter Tamy Justice (Michael Carroll); son Mark

Margaret was such a beautiful flower here on earth and now her beauty is blooming so bright in Heaven.

The family will receive friends Sunday, June 22, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Greg Goodman and Bro. Jason Goins officiating. Graveside services will be Monday at 11:00 a.m. in the Goodman Cemetery.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Margaret Helen Goodman.*

**Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.**

**Psalm 86:4-5**

**4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.**

**5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.**





David Zubler  
Columnist

## Avoid paying this year's erroneous IRS penalties

The IRS is erroneously charging people in Tennessee with late filing and late payment penalties. Unfortunately, their computer system doesn't recognize the extended deadline for residents of Tennessee for some people.

People living outside of Tennessee may also be able to have their IRS penalties abated for other reasons.

The IRS extended tax deadlines for people in Tennessee due to severe storms that began on April 2, 2025. The deadline for filing and paying

taxes was extended to November 3, 2025. This relief applies to individuals and businesses in all of Tennessee's 95 counties.

If you have been erroneously charged with late filing or payment penalties, you will need to contact the IRS to have them abated.

You can call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040, and the phone line is open 24 hours a day. Explain to them that you are a resident of Tennessee and have erroneously been charged with penalties since the filing and payment deadline was extended to November 3. After speaking with them, it will take a few minutes for them to update the computer records. Usually, you should receive a letter from the IRS in a few weeks stating that the penalties have been abated. Due to the IRS cutbacks, you should give the IRS several months. There is no need to be concerned about the letter.

Although it's unlikely, don't be concerned if you receive another IRS letter stating that the tax is still due. The letter may have already been generated in the IRS computer system or have already been in the mail. You don't need to take further action unless you receive a CP 504 Notice, and this would be extremely unlikely. In this case, you would need to call the IRS and provide the information from your previous phone call.

Anytime you speak with the IRS, be sure to write the employee's name, badge number, time, and date and keep it in your files.

IRS penalties can be abated for other reasons, including:

- first-time abatement
- reasonable cause
- statutory exception

If you haven't had any penalties in the three previous years, you generally qualify for the first-time abatement.

Reasonable cause is determined on a case-by-case basis, considering all the facts and circumstances of your situation. Reasons that qualify for relief due to reasonable cause depend on the type of penalty you owe and the laws in the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) for each penalty.

Common statutory exceptions include:

- Relied on incorrect written advice from the IRS
- Mailed a return on time
- Lived in a federal disaster area
- Were involved in military operations in a combat zone

Knowing the tax rules and laws can help to avoid paying penalties by having them abated. If you are unsure of the tax laws, consider using a licensed tax professional.

*David Zubler is a nationally known tax accountant and Enrolled Agent that resides in East Tennessee. He is the author of six tax books and a syndicated columnist who has shared tax advice on podcasts and national TV and has been referred to as America's Tax Guru. He is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. He represents clients nationwide before the IRS and provides tax strategies, and tax education, including David's one-minute tax tip radio recordings at YourTaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865)363-3019 or by email at david@yourtaxcare.com.*



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## Historically Speaking Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge - THE ROAD TO TRINITY

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Barbara Scollin, grandniece of Major General Kenneth D. Nichols continues her series on his life.



Colonel Kenneth D. Nichols, District Engineer. Dedication of a B-25 Billy Mitchell bomber, SUNDAY PUNCH. Knoxville Airport TN, March 18, 1945. Photo by Ed Westcott. (Courtesy of the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History, and, The Oak Ridge History Museum)

\*\*\*

Ample reasons, most notably leadership skills, personality traits and qualifications, led to choosing General (then Colonel) Kenneth D. Nichols as Deputy District Engineer and subsequently as District Engineer of the Manhattan Engineer District (MED). In this capacity he had supervision of the research and development connected with, and the design, construction and operation of all plants required for the production of plutonium and uranium-235, including the construction of the towns of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Richland, Washington.

The responsibility of his position was massive as he oversaw a workforce of both military and civilian personnel of approximately 125,000; his Oak Ridge office became the center of the wartime atomic energy's activities. He also was responsible for internal security operations in the production facilities that helped keep the development of the atomic bomb secret.

In this eighteenth installment of several articles covering the life and accomplishments of Kenneth D. Nichols, we learn of the culmination of his and approximately 130,000 men and women's work, for 3 years, in secret, to make possible the successful testing of the first Atomic Bomb at Trinity, July 16, 1945.

By mid-1944, successful landing at Normandy and incoming intelligence reports indicated Germany had not successfully developed an atomic bomb. Nichols recalled, "We hoped to

defeat Germany before August 1945. ...Because of the time factor, prospects for use of the bomb against Germany were now remote, but Japan still remained a furious enemy."

Soon after, General Groves moved up the timetable to August 1, 1945, for production material delivery to Los Alamos. Colonel Kenneth Nichols said this, "was optimistic and would require an overwhelming effort and considerable good luck to accomplish." Three plants operating simultaneously, and other responsibilities were understandably putting pressure on Nichols.

He recalls, "I was not yet aware of how much the demands on me would increase ... as pressures were applied to complete the bomb at the earliest possible date. ... As the momentum increased, the sheer volume of my work accelerated, and the problems I faced became more and more complex. Moreover, the work required more frequent travel from one project location to another to expedite decisions and the work."

Events happened in quick succession: Hanford Engineer Works (HEW) shipped the entire experimental order to Los Alamos by May 2, 1945. The German High Command surrendered unconditionally on May 7th. On May 31st and June 1st, Stimson's Interim Committee met to discuss the use of the bomb, the future of the Manhattan Project, continued research of atomic energy and international control. Clinton Engineer Works (CEW) shipped uranium test material in June.

Then Nick faced a personal crisis. Called to meet Groves in Washington on June 5th, 1945, Nichols recalls, "We met alone. He started off rather enigmatically: 'I have tied it up.' That startled

me, since I had never before heard him admit any error.

"He then went on to explain that on the 4th, Somervell had called him and asked if I could be transferred to a very important job that would call for an immediate promotion to brigadier general. Groves rather ruefully told me that he promptly responded, 'You can't have him.' At that, Somervell replied, 'Who do you think you are to tell me I can't have any engineer officer I want? Orders will be issued today.' ...

"Groves again acknowledged he had made a mistake, saying, 'I never should have told General Somervell that he could not have you.'"

Nichols followed up by meeting with Maj General Clinton F. Robinson at the Pentagon. Robbie wanted out of the Pentagon to get field experience in the Pacific Theatre and was a good friend from Nicaraguan days (see 2nd article) and Cornell University (see 3rd article). Robbie suggested to Somervell that Nick replace him.

Nick explains what happened next: "Robbie had heard that considerable doubt existed in the minds of some very important people about the chances of success for the Manhattan Project. As a result, he felt he was doing me a favor by getting me out of the project.

"He knew I had signed most of the contracts and was responsible not for only the administration but also for many of the technical decisions and thus would be likely to get much of the blame for a failure. He said, 'Let 'Goo Goo'

Groves take the blame all by himself.'"

Groves' request to General George Marshall to revoke the orders was not successful. But Lt General Somervell did agree to postpone Nichols' re-assignment to autumn.

Testing of the plutonium bomb was planned for early July by Oppenheimer. Groves and Nichols discussed who should be present at the Trinity test. Nichols recalls, "He said if I went, too many people would figure where I was going. ... 'If you go, they'll know for sure what it is. People are trying to find out how close we are.'

"Groves never told me I could not go. In going over the list with me in early July of who shall be included, he began to worry about the number of individuals who were planning to go 'fishing'. He told me he feared that if Matthias and I went to Trinity, it might alert too many people at the CEW and the HEW about what was taking place. The leak might endanger security, not to mention creating even more requests from people wanting to attend. I agreed not to go, thereby eliminating the prospects of many key men."

In an attempt to gain dramatic effect, the recent movie *Oppenheimer* portrays scientists and other Trinity observers worried that the Earth's atmosphere might ignite. In fact, the excitement and extreme tension was driven by whether or not an atomic explosion was even achievable. Nichols recalled in his book *The Road to Trinity, A Personal Account of How America's Nuclear Policies Were Made* at page 156, "early in the program, Oppenheimer discussed the possibility that a fission bomb might ignite the atmosphere.

"But that fear soon was laid to rest." The Trinity test was a test of the plutonium implosion-type bomb. After three years work by over 130,000 people and \$2.2B (~\$39B in 2025) spent, uncertainty hung in the balance. Nichols said, "at that time we decided to test plutonium because we weren't as certain it would work. ... We were certain U-235 would work and did not need testing. We didn't have enough 235 to test it."

When the July 16th Trinity test was complete, Groves informed Secretary of War Stimson that it was successful; he then followed up on July 18th with an uncharacteristic exuberant report. Stimson immediately informed President Truman on the 16th who in turn informed Prime Minister Churchill. Nichols was notified by both Dr. Stafford Warren and General Groves.

Groves personally called and sent a letter to Nichols marked "SECRET---destroy after reading" that stated in part, "[The test] was a far greater success than anyone had anticipated ... everything we had hoped for was proven insofar as the test at New Mexico permitted. ... I hope that it will not be too long before I can properly handle the question of recognition of certain people who are so responsible for our success, particularly yourself."

On July 24th, the Combined Chiefs of Staff met with Churchill and Truman who approved the November 1, 1945, invasion of Kyushu. On July 25th, Stimson and Marshall approved operational orders for the first atomic bomb drop. The Potsdam Proclamation called on the Japanese government to unconditionally surrender else "prompt and utter destruction" would be forthcoming. On July 29th Japan broadcast that the government would ignore the proclamation and continue war.

At this time, Nichols recalled, "I was ... directly involved in responding to the unrest of the scientists at the Met Lab. I had several discussions with Groves and Dr. James B. Conant about the issues the scientists were raising, and in particular about moral aspects of the radiation effects of the bomb.

# Historically Speaking Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge - THE ROAD TO TRINITY

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

“From the standpoint of morality, the three of us could see little difference in death by radiation as compared to death by heat or blast. All three can be lethal and would vary depending on the magnitude of the bomb and the height of the burst. A low height of burst would increase radiation effects by increasing the amount of the duration of the residual radiation.

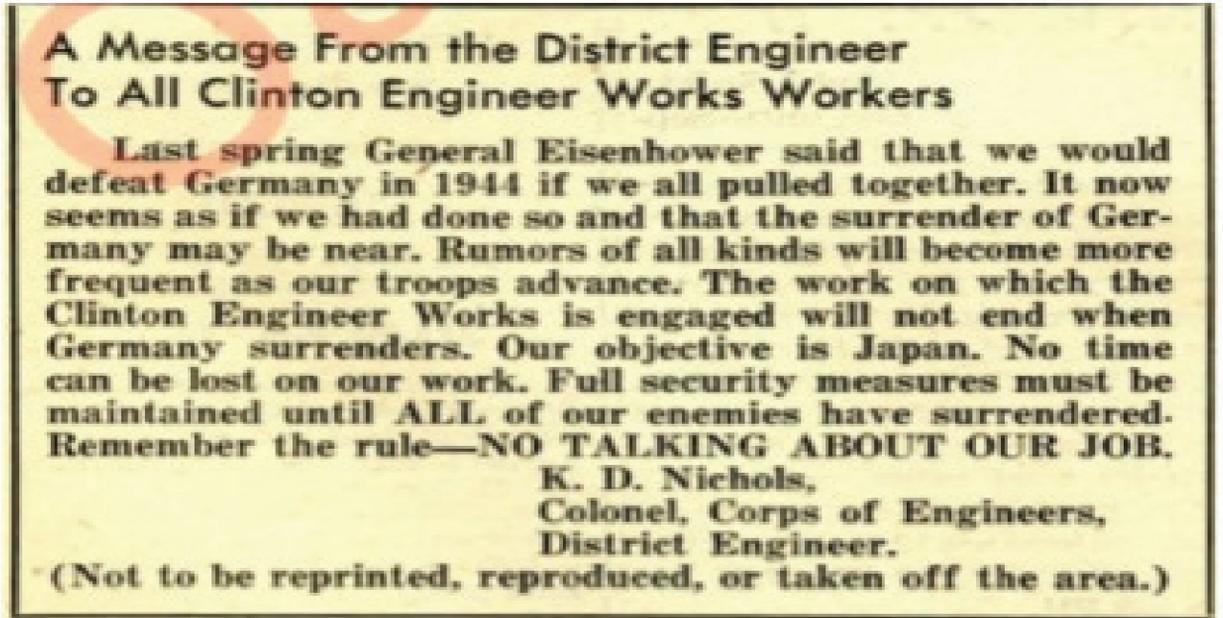
In contrast, a greater and optimum height could be calculated for maximum blast effect and a corresponding maximum area of destruction. For optimum height, it was estimated that radiation would be lethal for a radius of about two thirds of a mile, while the blast effect would cover a larger area. However, even with the best of calculations, we could not be certain of the actual energy release that would be achieved by either of the two types of bombs.”

And,  
“As a result of the [Trinity] test results, Groves and the Air Force planning group decided that the atomic bomb should be detonated at 2000’ over the Japanese cities to minimize residual radiation on the ground. But, as I have already noted, few of the military and scientific leaders directly involved with building the bomb and also responsible for the decision to use it questioned the ethics or morality of dropping the weapon just because it created radiation.

“The purpose of the bomb was to destroy cities, to kill Japanese, and to destroy the Japanese will to continue the war. So long as mass killing was considered necessary it should not make any material difference whether people died from the blast, the heat, and the fires created, or the radiation. War itself is horrible. We wanted to end the war as quickly as possible and minimize the overall casualties, particularly for Americans; at that time we all remembered Pearl Harbor.”

We still remember Pearl Harbor and thank everyone who worked and lived at Los Alamos and their families for their tireless, miraculous work and sacrifices during World War II.

Next up: Atom Bomb Day  
Grateful acknowledgements to K. David Nichols, Jr.; Ray Smith; Sandy Fye; Dr. Bianka J. Adams, Alisa Whitley, Douglas J. Wilson and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of History; Emily (Westcott) and Don Hunnicutt; Michael Stallo and the staff at the Oak Ridge Public Library; Diane Gulley; Gerald A. Potts; and Bruce



Colonel K.D. Nichols encourages all CEW Workers to stay the course until both Germany and Japan surrender. The Oak Ridge Journal, September 7, 1944 (Courtesy of the Oak Ridge Public Library)



The atomic explosion at Trinity, July 16, 1945. (Courtesy of DOE)

W. Scollin for their assistance with this article.  
\*\*\*

Thanks for this Historically Speaking column and the series goes to Barbara Rogers Scollin, grandniece of General Kenneth D. Nichols.

Another article by Barbara on General Nichols, SUNDAY PUNCH, K-25 WORKERS GO ABOVE THEIR LINE OF DUTY, was pub-

lished in The Oak Ridger’s Historically Speaking column during the week of August 28, 2023 and can be accessed here. <https://smithdray1.net/historicallyspeaking/2023/8-28-2023%20SUNDAY%20PUNCH.pdf>



# John Chapter 18



Melvin Howard

**(John 18:1-14) Betrayal and Arrest (Mt. 26:47-56; Mk. 14:43-52; Lk. 22:47-53):** The betrayal of Christ and his subsequent arrest have been discussed more extensively in the comments on Matthew's account. The commentary here will focus mostly on John's unique material. Jesus and the eleven left Jerusalem, crossed the Kidron ravine, and made their way to Gethsemane. This was a garden of olive trees and the Lord frequented the place with his disciples (v. 2), likely for solitude and prayer. Thus, Judas

was familiar with the site and knew where to guide the arresting band.

Judas, leading the company of soldiers, officers, chief priests, and Pharisees, came in force to apprehend the Prince of Peace. In the light of a full moon, they came with lanterns, torches, and weapons (v. 3), obviously anticipating resistance. Christ did not wait for them to approach; he went forth to meet them. He asked whom they sought; they replied, "Jesus of Nazareth." He responded: "I am" (v. 5). There was a subtle message in that phrase; it reflected back to the name of Israel's God (Ex. 3:14). They were arresting deity! This could not have happened but for his submissiveness.

When they heard these two words, as if under the pressure of a mighty force, they stumbled backwards and fell to the ground. He requested they release his disciples (to fulfill his prophetic pledge that he lost none, except Judas [17:12]). At this point, Peter drew his sword and surgically removed the right ear (note the detail of an eyewitness. Peter was rebuked (Mt. 26:52) and Christ surrendered so that he could "drink the cup" given by his Father (v. 11). Jesus was seized and bound (v. 12). Is it not remarkable that Peter was not arrested? There was a reason. There would have been no "one-ear" witness to incriminate him. Malchus had been healed!

Jesus was taken first to Annas, a former high priest and father-in-law of the current high priest---Caiaphas. Annas had no official standing, but that did not matter. Legal jurisprudence would be flung to the wind. John reminds his readers that Caiaphas was the one who argued for the expediency of Jesus' death so that the nation might be spared (11:49-50)---a plan that backfired royally (v. 14). For the time being, however, Annas would serve in the role of high priest, exerting his titular authority (v. 24). The other disciples scattered, but Peter and John (who somehow was known to Annas) followed the entourage back to Jerusalem and into the temple compound. John entered into the court of the high priest, while Peter waited outside the door.

**(John 18:15-27) Peter's Denials; Standing before Annas:** John records the account of Peter's initial denial of Jesus and then proceeds with a discussion of the further trial circumstances. Annas questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. The Lord bluntly replied that he had taught openly, not secretly, and to raise such a question was meaningless. There were plenty of witnesses standing nearby who could testify about such matters, if they were honest enough to do so. An officer hit Jesus with his hand, rebuking him for speaking "disrespectfully" to Annas. The Lord defended his comment, charging the attack had been unwarranted. The usurping priest, likely frustrated, dispatched the Savior to his worthless son-in-law, Caiaphas (v. 24). John then chronicled the second and third denials of Peter, along with the crowing rooster that, as someone has said, "called the apostle a liar"! (v. 27). For further information, see Luke 22:66-71).

**(John 18:28-40) Before Pontius Pilate:** Jesus was subsequently taken to the Praetorium. This was the headquarters of Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, who normally resided at Caesarea. Incidentally, what happened at the appearance before Caiaphas? The sacred record is silent---a gap that would not be missing if an ordinary journalist had been chronicling the events. The narrative suggests divine restraint. It was early morning and the Jewish officials refrained from entering the Roman quarters where they might be defiled preliminary to a Passover meal. They were on the precipice of crucifying the Son of God, and yet they were worried about contamination!

Pilate, therefore, went out and inquired as to the charges against Jesus. With the epitome of arrogance, they said: "We would not have brought him if he was innocent." Pilate should have thrown them out immediately, but he was a politician. So he said, "Take him and judge him according to your law" (v. 31). They confessed this would not accomplish their goal; they wanted him dead, and under the present legal system, they had no authority for that. They already had him "guilty"; it was just a matter of the mode of execution. In the divine scheme of things, the Lord was to die by crucifixion (Psa. 22:16), even as Jesus had prophesied (Mt. 20:19; Jn. 12:32). Thus, the Romans must be factored into the equation.

Pilate reentered the Praetorium and summoned Jesus for questioning. "Are you the king of the Jews?" With unbelievable courage, the Lord asked in return: "Are you inquiring for your own information, or are you relating the interest of others?" The governor snapped back: "Am I a Jew?"--as if to say he wanted no part of common Jewish squabbles. "Your own people delivered you to me; what have you done?" Christ answered with two basic components: (a) "My kingdom is not a 'this-world' regime; it is spiritual, not political." (b) "Accordingly, you have nothing to fear from my servants; they will not fight to protect me from the Jews" (v. 36).

Pilate pressed further: "Are you a king?" Jesus replied: "You say that I am" (v. 37). The expression, "You say it," is the equivalent of "I am" (Mt. 26:64 with Mk. 14:62). Again, however, the Lord attempted to explain the nature of his regime. "I have come into this world to bear witness to truth; and those interested in truth listen to me." Pilate asked: "What is truth?" (v. 38). The controversy over whether the question was sincere or sarcastic is meaningless. Likely it was a phrase of dismissal.

The governor went out where the Jews were waiting. He said, "I find no crime in him." The judge rules "Innocent"! That judgment will be "taken away" (Isa. 53:7-8, Acts 8:32-33) because: (a) a weak ruler had not the backbone to buck an unruly mob and (b) it was a fulfillment of prophecy. Pilate then reminded them of a custom at Passover time---a criminal was released. He selected a notorious robber, murderer, and insurrectionist---Barabbas---as a choice instead of Jesus. So deep was their hatred for God's Son, they chose the bloody Barabbas---and sealed their national doom (Matthew 23:34-36 "Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation").

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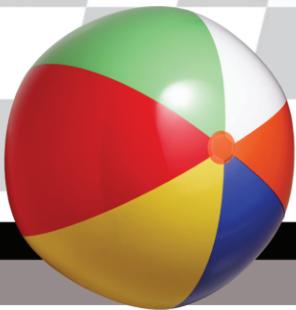
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