

“Gospel of John – Abuse and Conviction”

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Scripture

John 19:1-15

“Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and put a purple robe on Him; and they began to come up to Him and say, “**Hail, King of the Jews!**” and to give Him slaps in the face.”

“Pilate came out again and said to them, “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you **so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.**” Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, ‘**Behold, the Man!**’”

“So, when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, “Crucify, crucify!” Pilate said to them, “**Take Him yourselves and crucify Him**, for I find no guilt in Him.” The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and by that law He ought to die **because He made Himself out to be the Son of God.**”

“Therefore, when Pilate heard this statement, **he was even more afraid**; and he entered into the Praetorium again and said to Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to Him, “You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?”

“Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason, **he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.**” As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews cried out saying, “If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar.”

“Therefore, when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold, your King!” So, 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.”

Last Week

With the Jewish trials over, we moved on to the Roman trial

The Romans had a process to administer justice and we looked at truth and justice last week

Pilate asked Jesus, “What is Truth?” and we discussed how important it is for us to be people of truth

The modern world is cynical about truth so we should expect challenging conversations about the Bible

This Week

We continue with the Roman trial scene and the abuse that Jesus withstood from the Romans

The video is difficult to see -> we tend to lose sight about the abuse Jesus endured

Abuse and Mocking

John 19:1-3

“Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and put a purple robe on Him; and they began to come up to Him and say, “**Hail, King of the Jews!**” and to give Him slaps in the face.”

As we saw, scourging was a traumatic event

Whips, Leather, particles of glass, metal, and bone -> Romans were experts at scourging

Jews limited to 39 lashes (Paul spoke of his receiving 39 twice) -> Romans not limited, loved to deliver pain

Isaiah 52:14 (The Exalted Servant passage)

“Just as many were astonished at you My people, So **His appearance was marred more than any man** and His form more than the sons of men.”

Why did Pilate scourge Jesus if he found no guilt in Him?

“the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and put a purple robe on Him”

Pilate allowed his soldiers to mock Jesus -> crown of thorns and purple robe

Mark’s view adds a little more information:

Mark 15:16-19

“The soldiers took Him away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium), and they called together the whole Roman cohort. They dressed Him up in purple, and after twisting a crown of thorns, they put it on Him; and they began to acclaim Him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” **They kept beating His head with a reed, and spitting on Him, and kneeling and bowing before Him.**”

Luke’s version of these events show that Jesus was also before Herod and that’s where the robe came from:

Luke 23:8-11

“Now Herod was very glad when he saw Jesus; for he had wanted to see Him for a long time, because he had been hearing about Him **and was hoping to see some sign performed by Him**. And he questioned Him at some length; but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and the scribes were standing there, accusing Him vehemently. And **Herod with his soldiers, after treating Him with contempt and mocking Him, dressed Him in a gorgeous robe and sent Him back to Pilate.**”

Herod participated in the mocking of Jesus because He wasn’t going to do any tricks for him

Herod clad Jesus in an old robe he was probably going to discard and sent Jesus away

“**Hail, King of the Jews!**”

Pilate’s men decided to mock Jesus’s claim that He was a king -> Pilate had to have told them about it

So, Pilate was not without sin in the treatment of Jesus

Do people still mock Jesus today?

John Lennon's "Imagine" -> "Beatles are more famous than Jesus" -> "Christianity will fade away"

How did that work out for Mr. Lennon?

Add Barack Obama, Oprah Winfrey, Rihanna, Donald Trump, Conor MacGregor to the list

People worship the Devil -> Christian Bale thanked Satan for his successful acting career

It's not just for Jesus's time -> mocking God goes on

Mock Him at your own peril, He listens to everything that is said and works in the world

Pilate was in a difficult place, but had to make a decision

Pilate's Determination

John 19:4-5

"Pilate came out again and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you **so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.**" Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, '**Behold, the Man!**'"

Pilate continues to tell the people that there is no case to convict Jesus

"so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him"

Yet he allowed Jesus to be openly mocked and yelled **"Behold, the Man!"**

"Here He is! You wanted Him presented for justice; here's the guy"

Luke adds a little more information:

Luke 23:13-16

"Pilate summoned the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "**You brought this man to me as one who incites the people to rebellion, and behold, having examined Him before you, I have found no guilt in this man regarding the charges which you make against Him.**" No, nor has Herod, for he sent Him back to us; and behold, nothing deserving death has been done by Him. "Therefore, **I will punish Him** and release Him."

Pilate seeks support to just punish and release Jesus

He even includes Herod in his argument -> "It's not just me, even Herod agrees"

The Jews ramp up the pressure against Pilate:

Jewish Pressure

John 19:6-7

"So, when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, "Crucify, crucify!" Pilate said to them, "**Take Him yourselves and crucify Him,** for I find no guilt in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law He ought to die **because He made Himself out to be the Son of God.**"

The Jews yell "Crucify" -> they do not want mere punishment and release

They're out for His blood

“Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him”

Pilate has already tried this tactic before, and the Jews replied that they were not allowed to execute anyone

““We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out to be the Son of God”

The law the reference is most likely:

Leviticus 24:15-16

“You shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, if anyone curses his God, then he will bear his sin. Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.”

Blasphemy was the only charge the Jews could come up with against Jesus

This shows that Jesus said He was God -> and He is, therefore, there was no blasphemy

Pilate is not going to get out of this situation easily

Pilate’s Weakness

John 19:8-10

“Therefore, when Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid; and he entered into the Praetorium again and said to Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. So, Pilate said to Him, “You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?”

Pilate was even more afraid after hearing that Jesus said He was God

Why is Pilate afraid?

He is superstitious and he just authorized the scourging of someone who claimed to be God

Jesus could take His vengeance out on Pilate

Pilate needs to confirm what the Jews just told him

He goes back into Jesus and asks, “Where are You from?”

Jesus is silent -> He’s not going to help Pilate out

Pilate is more frustrated than ever

“Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?”

Pilate ramps up the pressure to Jesus, trying to ease his own mind

Pilate did have the earthly authority over Jesus, even if Jesus was a Galilean since Herod sent Jesus back

A regular prisoner under Pilate’s authority might immediately cooperate or change his story

They may have come to their own defense

Pilate is clearly trying to find a way to free Jesus

Even though he authorized the torture of Jesus

Jesus isn't going to help Pilate to save Himself

Jesus responds with clarity about Who is really in charge:

Guilt For All

John 19:11-12

“Jesus answered, **“You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above;** for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.” As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews cried out saying, **“If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar.”**

“You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above”

Pilate has delegated authority from the Father

Paul taught us that in Romans 13:

Romans 13:1

“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. **For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.**”

God has placed Pilate in this role just as He placed Biden in his role as President

If we have issues with our government leadership, we need to take it up with God

“for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin”

Pilate is not absolved from his part in the situation but someone else has more sin

“Who has more sin than Pilate?”

- Could it be Judas? -> He handed Jesus over to Annas and Caiaphas
- Could it be Satan? -> He entered Judas and led him to turn Jesus into the Jews
- Could it be Caiaphas? -> He delivered Jesus to Pilate for judgment and execution

Most likely, Jesus centers on the Jewish leadership with Caiaphas at the forefront -> **John 11:47-50**

“As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him”

Pilate again attempts to release Jesus

The Jews will not allow that to happen

“If you release this Man, **you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar**”

They tell Pilate if he releases Jesus then Pilate is not a friend of Caesar

Jesus was no threat to Caesar

The Jews knew that

Pilate knew that -> Jesus told him that His kingdom was not an earthly one

Note the irony here

The Jews were no friend of Caesar, either – they hated the Roman rule over Palestine

Pilate was in bad shape with Rome already

He didn't need another mistake mentioned to the Emperor

So, Pilate relents:

Conviction

John 19:13-15

"Therefore, when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "**Behold, your King!**" So 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."

Pilate brings Jesus out for a final judgment and gives the people what they want

The Pavement was a stone courtyard area with the judgment seat on it

Although Pilate renders the verdict, this is a mob rule event

There is no justice done -> there is only injustice done

"**Behold, your King!**"

Again, Pilate mocks the Jews with this statement -> this beaten, unrecognizable man is their king

"**Shall I crucify your King?**"

Pilate asks, "are you sure this is what you want?"

"We have no king but Caesar."

The Jews, who long wanted to have a king and be like the other nations, embrace Caesar as their king

They rejected God in the Old Testament for a Jewish king

They rejected God in the New Testament for a Roman king

Sad, isn't it?

John 19:16

"So, he then handed Him over to them to be crucified."

Many people today reject God -> have any of you rejected God?

Instead of rejecting Him -> Is it time to surrender to Him?

Prayer

Benediction