

The Gospel of John

Chapter 19:1-16

December 21, 1997

- **The Gospel of John Outline:**

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- **Review and Introduction**

After being examined by Annas, then Caiaphas, then the Sanhedrin, and then Pontius Pilate, then Herod Antipas, Jesus was returned for the conclusion of the trial before Pilate. Pilate has already shown that he is in a very precarious position. With the Jewish mobs on one side and the Roman government on the other, Pilate struggles with demands for execution. In this section we will finish Pilate's examination and misdeeds with Jesus which will ultimately lead to His crucifixion.

Exposition of John 19:1-16

- ● *So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him.² And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe.³ Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands.*

- - This is one of a number of miscalculations by Pilate; thinking that a scourge will quell the crowd's demands for execution, Pilate puts Jesus through a scourging. This process of scourging was in itself a brutal punishment. In addition to the pain of whipping, fragments of bone, metal or glass were added to the end of the whip which served to remove the flesh from the person being beaten.
 - It is quite revealing to again see the irony in the mocking of the soldiers. They placed a crown of contempt upon the head of the true king. And they clothed in a royal robe the one who could rightfully sit on David's throne. But again we must glory in the sovereignty of God. It is a marvel how He uses the evil actions of others to bring about His perfect intentions. Consider Joseph, Gen. 45:5

- ● *⁴ Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him."*

- Pilate's pronouncement of Jesus' innocence was a fulfillment of the scriptures which declare that the suffering servant would be accused but yet not guilty (Isaiah 53). However, we also see from this the fact that Pilate was searching for anything to bring against Jesus but ultimately he could not find any fault. Clearly Pilate struggled with his conscience but his love of the polity was greater than his attempts to do right.
- As our example, Jesus suffers for doing right. Peter teaches that we are blessed when we are persecuted for righteousness' sake. Instead of demanding His rights, and pleading for support through the media, Jesus knows that His persecution is the express will of the Father and endures without sinning. If we are persecuted for doing wrong it clearly is what we deserve. But when we are persecuted for our faith, our Lord is pleased when we endure by our faith. 1 Peter 3:13-17

● ● ⁵ *Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"* ⁶ *Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"* Pilate said to them, *"You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him."* ⁷ *The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."*

- Thinking that the humiliation of Christ would placate the mob, Pilate presents Jesus to them. But the leaders led the crowd in demanding capital punishment for Him. Out of sarcastic frustration, Pilate tells them to crucify Jesus themselves. Clearly he knows that they cannot do so, but we see the struggle that is waging inside Pilate's head.
- The Jews were right that blasphemy was a capital offense as spelled out in Leviticus 24. It is also true that if the claims of Jesus were not true, He would have deserved death. However, Christ's claims of being a Prophet were substantiated by His teaching and His miracles. His claims of being the Messiah, were substantiated by the writings of the prophets. As Prophet and Messiah He was also rightfully the King and deserved their worship rather than their scorn. It was the hardness of their hearts which made them incapable of seeing the truth.

● ● ⁸ *Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid,* ⁹ *and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?"* But Jesus gave him no answer.

- Having heard nothing false from Him thus far, when Pilate hears that Jesus claims to be the Son of God he becomes even more afraid. The likely answer to his increased fear is his belief in the Greek polytheistic religion which commonly held that the gods would have offspring with humans. Not wanting to upset one of the gods, Pilate interrogates Jesus about His place of origin.

● ● ¹⁰ *Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?"* ¹¹ *Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."*

- Jesus' lack of a reply threatened Pilate and shook him up. Attempting to puff himself up, Pilate lords his authority over Christ not knowing that it was Christ who was the true King. Jesus' reply is extraordinary. He declares to Pilate that it was God who gave Pilate the authority on earth to put Him to death. Not only did God give the power to Rome through Pilate but God also gave the authority to Jewish leaders to trump up the charges and bring Him to this point. What we see here is the incredible sovereignty of God bringing about His express purposes through the sinfulness of man. (Acts 4:23-31)

● ● ¹² *From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."* ¹³ *When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.* ¹⁴ *Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"*

- - Although he ultimately resolved to free Jesus, Pilate gave in to the final tactic of the Jews which was to threaten him with treason. In essence the Jews were saying that Jesus is a threat to the seat of Rome and if Pilate is a friend to this threat, then they would report to Rome that his allegiance was not genuine. This was the final push that put Pilate firmly in a corner and his conscience could not do what was right.

● ● ¹⁵ *But 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!"*¹⁶ *Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away. NKJV*

- - It now becomes very clear just how depraved the Jewish leaders have become; here for the purpose of expediency they proclaim their allegiance to Rome. This is exactly what this type of sin looks like today. Men will abandon that which they know otherwise to be true so as to cover up sin elsewhere. Whether it is abortion, pornography or free speech, the abandonment of that which is true is common so that their sin can be covered.