

The Great Physician

Luke 23:1-26

- Jesus the creator of the universe is being put on trial by sinful man, they've already beat Him, spit on Him, falsely accuse Him, but where Satan, the world and man were doing its worst, unbeknownst to them God was giving us His best > **Rom 5:20** says "**where sin abounded, Grace did much more abound**". Because where the trial and death of Jesus reveals the wicked heart of man, it also illuminated to us the gracious heart of God.

V1-26

- **V1-2** after the Sanhedrin has condemned Jesus they now take Him over to Pilate the Roman governor over the Province including Jerusalem. The Jews had no authority to kill Jesus, only the Romans did, so they must find a reason for the Romans to view Jesus as a threat to Caesar, and to do that they told Pilate that Jesus was forbidding the people to pay taxes to Caesar, and the reason He gave everyone was that Caesar is not the king, but He was the true King.
- **Math 22:21** Jesus told the Jews to render unto Caesar what is Caesar meaning to pay their taxes, later Paul says in **Rom 13:6-7** says we as Christians should also pay our taxes. **V3-4** the Jews knowing Pilate wouldn't touch a theological debate for a reason to pronounce a capital punishment asks Jesus are You The King of the Jews? Jesus answers "**it is as you say**".
- Pilate then declares that he finds no fault in this man and attempts to set Jesus free, but there is a problem with that, you see it really wasn't Jesus on trial, it was us. Jesus is innocent, and that will be made abundantly clear throughout this farce of a trial, but this trial wasn't all about Jesus guilt or innocence, it was about our guilt, and mankind was guilty, and our sin needed to be judged. **V5-7** so when the religious leaders heard Pilates initial verdict they reject it, and began to accuse Jesus more, and was threatening to cause a riot, oh oh, that's a problem for Pilate.
- He had already had two strikes against him because of riots breaking out where he ruled, and he was told that if another riot happened under his watch that he would lose his rule and authority. So when he heard that Jesus was from Galilee he thought this is my way out, an opportunity to get Jesus off my hands, I will send Jesus to Herod because Galilee is under his jurisdiction, and so he sends Jesus to Herod, who happened to be in Jerusalem at the time because it was Passover.
- **V8-10** Herod was excited to see Jesus, but for all the wrong reasons, he wanted to see Him not because he wanted to repent, hear truth, or further the Kingdom of God throughout Israel, but because he wanted to see Jesus do some of the miracles that he had heard of, and to clear his own conscience. **Mk 6:14-16, Math 14:1-2**- Herod was the one who had John the Baptist beheaded, and when he heard what Jesus was doing it really started to affect his conscience.

- Jesus wouldn't answer Herod's questions, interestingly, in **Jn 18:31-38** Jesus had a conversation with Pilate, and Pilate had an opportunity to receive the truth, but sadly he rejected it, answering Jesus with "**what is truth**". When Jesus was asked about being a King He in return asked Pilate do you want to know for yourself or is this just something someone else told you?
- Jesus even told him that His Kingdom was not of this world, and if He desired His servants would fight for Him and prevail, but since this world is on a course for destruction this is what its going to take for people to be saved. Jesus said all these things to Pilate but wouldn't answer Herod's questions because He knew what was in Herod's heart, and that he had already heard the truth from John the Baptist. **V11-12** Herod then treated Jesus spitefully putting a robe upon Him, mocking Him, and in doing so Herod and Pilate mended their broken friendship.
- **V13-17** Pilate then announces to everyone for a second time that both Herod and He have examined Jesus and haven't found anything worthy of death, so they will beat Him some more and let Him go. But we have to remember all of this is happening because it wasn't enough for the Jews to condemn Jesus but for the whole world, and Rome represented the whole world.
- **V18-20** Pilate reminds them that the governor can release back to them a prisoner because it was Passover, and he offers to release Jesus > **Math 27:15-18**. But there was more at work than Pilate realized, in **Math 27:20** the religious leaders had persuaded the crowd to ask for a murderer and a criminal to be released instead of Jesus.
- **V21-23** three times Jesus was offered to the people and all three times He was rejected by the people > **Jn 15:18-20**- Jesus knew that this would happen, He wasn't thinking like some of us would of, saying after all that I've done for these folks they now treat me like this. It was so bad that in **Math 27:24-25** the Jews pronounced a curse on their children for condemning Jesus wow! **V24-25** Pilate finally gives in and lets them have their rebel and murderer over God's Savior, and pronounces judgment upon Jesus, what they didn't know that it was also God's will.
- **V26** in the midst of this seemingly horrible act, something amazing is happening, as Jesus is being led away to His crucifixion a man who we've never heard of is introduced to the story. Simon of Cyrene, as part of the condemned humiliation they had to carry their own cross, and as Jesus is carrying His the soldiers see Him struggling and draft a bystander this man named Simon to help and carry Jesus cross. **Mk 15:21** identifies him as the father of Alexander and Rufus, two men that Mark knew his readers would know because **Rom 16:13** says they were Christians.
- Through carrying the cross Simon the Cyrene gets saved, and he disciples his two sons into the faith and they become influential to the gospel being spread throughout the world. The religious leaders, the Romans, Satan and His demonic realm in an attempt to try and smother the gospel out actually fanned its flame and it caught fire even more and spread throughout the world, so much so that we are here as living proof as to what the gospel will do in a person's life amen!