

When Power Stands Before Glory

John 18:29-19:16

Early Friday Morning

Pilate (AD 26-37)→

His primary responsibility was to maintain order in the region, collect taxes, and oversee a military force of approximately 6000 soldiers.

- This region was known for its unrest and Rome depended on resources flowing smoothly from this area.
- Pilate used whatever means necessary to accomplish this.
- He was not a fan of the Jewish people and their leaders. He would often be contrary to their wants and needs.

vs. 29-31, Why are you bothering me?

As the lambs are being prepared for sacrifice in the Temple Jesus, the lamb of God (1:29), is brought before the Roman governor.

Two identified worldly powers meet to determine the fate of Jesus.

The Chief Priests

Rome - The earthly symbol of power, prestige, and governance.

Are these two entities determining the fate of Jesus?

Jerusalem, an ancient city at the center of history.

We already know...this is not going to end well for Jesus.

The Chief Priests weren't giving Pilot any information he didn't already know.

- It was his job to be aware of any potential revolutionary.
- Roman governors regularly utilized an effective network of spies.

Only Rome can legally kill people.

What is happening concerning the plans of God?

Jesus had already said

- Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up (2:19).
- He would be lifted up (3:14).
- He is the good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep (10:11).
- He would draw all people to himself (12:32).

Jesus has perfect clarity concerning what lies before him.

Only one will be glorified!

vs. 33, Are you the king of the Jews?

From Pilot's perspective, he already knew the answer.

- Jesus didn't come close to the might of Judas Maccabaeus when he had established his dynasty revolting against the Syrians.
- Herod the Great (40-37 BC) with the support of Marc Antony and the Roman Senate had done Rome a great favor by defeating the Parthians. In appreciation Rome appointed him the King of the Jews.
- His son Herod Antipas is the one that now holds the title.

What does Pilot see as Jesus is standing in front of him?

- A poor man from the wrong part of the country.
- He has a small group of followers and they have all abandoned him.
- He has gained some influence with the crowds, but the crowds are fickle.

vs. 34, Jesus responds with a question of his own.

vs. 35, Pilot shows his frustration.

vs. 36, I do have a kingdom, but it is not from this world.

vs. 37, So..you are a king?

vs. 38, I was born for this. I have entered this world to testify to the truth.

What is truth?

Truth is a gift.

Truth is embodied in Jesus.

Truth comes from another place but is meant to take up residence in this world.

Truth will forever change history. Truth will repair brokenness.

Truth will refresh, renew, and restore! Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (14:6).

vs. 39-40, This is a waste of my time. There isn't anything I can charge him with.

Do you want me to release Jesus?

NO! Release Barabbas (an actual violent revolutionary).

Chapter 19

The hour has arrived! It's depth, its violence, its meaning...we all need to be aware that our understanding is going to be all over the place.

Graphic violence is captured in three verses. It should stir us to weep.

vs. 4, Ok...Have I satisfied your appetite? Will it be enough for this man to be released in crippling shame?

vs. 5, Here is the man!

John's point -> This is the man, the savior of the world!

Here is the true image of the true God.

Here is the one who has made the invisible God visible.

The innocent king, the true man, the one who told the truth and was accused of blasphemy.

As followers of Jesus we are branches that must remain in the vine.

The vine which continues to thrive in a hostile world.

Question: What will you do with this truth not from this world?

In what ways is Jesus actively repairing the brokenness in you?

What steps can we take as Jesus people who are part of his kingdom to not participate in the mockery and shame of the world?

How are you thriving (as one connected to the vine) in a world of hostility?