

Turn in your Bibles this morning to John Chapter 18. We will read verse 38 from last week and go through verse 16 of Chapter 19. We are beginning a new series we are calling:



May we remember that everything we have been looking at since Jesus' arrest and will be looking at until Jesus' resurrection is fulfilled prophesy from the Bible. What we are seeing is the reason Jesus came from heaven to earth. Jesus said this to his disciples after James and John's mother asked for them to sit beside Jesus when he established Jesus' kingdom:

Matthew 20:28

²⁸ Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Jesus explained to his disciples at least 3 times of his impending death, burial, and resurrection as he said these words in Matthew 17:22-23.

Matthew 17:22-23

²² As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, ²² and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were greatly distressed.

Jesus came to die for our sins to pay the payment to God for our forgiveness of sin and through our repentance of our sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This faith is a believing faith, in the fact in all that we are going to look at today and the next few weeks is a faith in what Jesus went through for our salvation. Pastor Kevin alluded to this last week. May we not look at what we are seeing and hearing with a mindset when it comes to Jesus' crucifixion of, Been There, Done That, Got the T-Shirt, let's move on.

May we see with new eyes today of what Jesus did for us!

Today we continue to look at the interaction between Pilate, Jesus, the Chief Priests, the officers and may we not forget there would be crowd that gathers and is involved as well. Let's read some of our verses.

John 18:38-40

38 Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him. 39 But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" 40 They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

Just a quick review of where all this is taking place. Look at this picture:



All this is happening at Antonia's Fortress. Pilate is going back and forth from inside his headquarters where Jesus is and back out to where the Pharisees are. By now a crowd knows what is going on and they are beginning to form.

Some of you may know this phrase, but Pilate is between a rock and a hard place at this time. He knows Jesus is innocent, but he is afraid of what the Jews may do if he releases Jesus. Remember what we learned last week about how the Jewish leaders had quite a stronghold over Pilate.

Pilate desires to release Jesus and he has another offer to present to the Pharisees. The custom of releasing a prisoner during the time of Passover. Surely, they would ask for the release of a man they were throwing down their cloaks and waving palm branches and crying out, ***"Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"***

Not a notorious, murderous, insurrectionist! Surely the man they had just said was their King. With that in mind, maybe that is why Pilate described Jesus as the King of the Jews in his proposal. Another added twist to this predicament Pilate found himself in. While Pilate is waiting on a response, he receives a note from his wife. We see this in Matthew Chapter 27 verse 19.

Matthew 27:19

19 Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream."

There is a lot that Pilate had to have going through his mind right now.

So, their choices!

1. Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah, the savior of their soul! Truth! The Way, The Truth, The Life!
2. Barabbas, murderer, notorious criminal!

You have a choice as well today! All of you that are in this service today. Saved and unsaved alike. Saved we have the choices to continue live in obedience to God's Word and live a life that through Bible Study, prayer we continue to grow in our faith and become more like Jesus. We take the Word of God, and we proclaim, that for a person to be saved it is only through Jesus Christ.

Unsaved person! You have two choices standing before you today as well. Yes, one is Jesus! The other is called, the tempter, a murderer, a liar, deceiver, one who blinds the lost to the point they can't see the light of the Gospel of the glory of Jesus. Who is this ladies and gentlemen that I just described? Satan!

So, I give you options today! Will you repent of your sins and go after Jesus! Will you go after truth or lies! I pray that you understand that every day that you let go by and you don't repent of your sins, you choose Satan. He is laughing at you and saying I have them so deceived!

Look at your choices, who are you going after? May I remind us this is a decision that has the bearing on our eternity of whether we will spend an eternity in Heaven or an eternity in Hell. We are going to begin to see what Jesus went through for us to provide eternal life for all those that will repent and follow the Lord Jesus in obedience.

We read who the Pharisees, the crowd chose! Barabbas! Pilate has one more solution that could possibly work. Let's read Chapter 19:1-8.

John 19:1-8

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³ They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶ When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid.

When the Jews cried out for Barabbas that should have been the end of this. They had made their choice. But Pilate, is still seeking to have Jesus released. They are crying for blood. Then blood they will get! Pilate has Jesus flogged.

There is no way to describe this act in any delicate manner. Outside of crucifixion this was one of the most brutal types of punishment. I want to remind everyone of something here. This is not fiction! This is history! This happened and again the reason Jesus went through this was to pay that wage of sin to God, "***For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord!***"

I struggled whether to read the description of flogging or not, but I just couldn't get away from it. So, I put up a warning. The following reading will be disturbing to some! It will be on the screens.

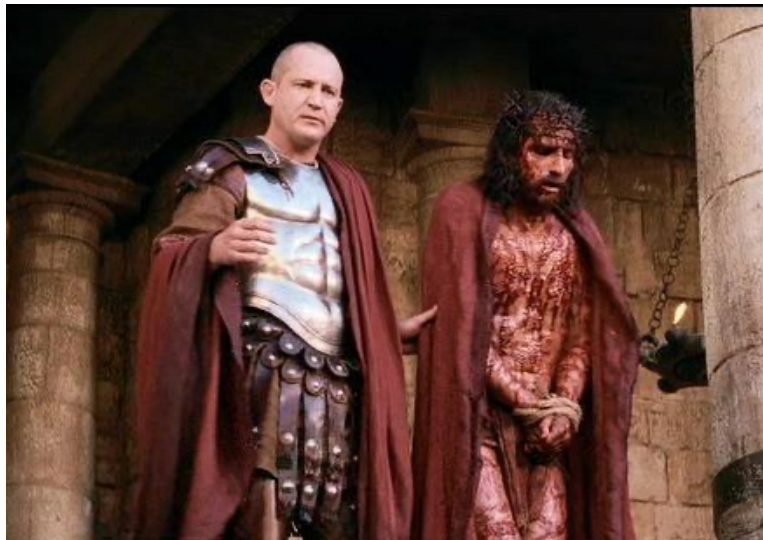
The Romans first stripped the victim and tied his hands to a post above his head. The whip (flagellum) was made of several pieces of leather with pieces of bone and lead embedded near the ends. Two men, one on each side of the victim, usually did the flogging. The Jews mercifully limited flogging to a maximum of forty stripes; the Romans had no such limitation. The heavy whip is brought down with full force again and again across Jesus' shoulders, back, and legs. At first the heavy thongs cut through the skin only. Then, as the blows continue, they cut deeper in the subcutaneous tissues, producing first and oozing of blood from the

capillaries and veins of the skin, and finally spurting arterial bleeding from vessels in the underlying muscles... Finally, the skin of the back is hanging in long ribbons and the entire area is an unrecognizable mass of torn, bleeding tissue.

After the flogging the soldiers took Jesus and pressed a crown of thorns on his head that was made of some kind of prickly plant such as abounds in Palestine. This they pressed into his scalp. Again, there must have been copious bleeding because the scalp is one of the most vascular areas of the body. As they beat him it would drive further into his scalp. Mocking him as they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Then pressing a purple robe upon the wounds as the material matted to the bloody mess Jesus' body had become. Most men that went through this torture never made it to the cross. They died during the flogging!

Once again Pilate goes out of his headquarters and brings Jesus with him and Pilate says, "Behold the man!" Look at this picture!



Surely this is enough for the Pharisees! But it wasn't! You have heard the term about animals, "They smelled blood!" The animal will go into a frenzy. Not only did these people possibly smell blood, they see it! They saw Jesus in the shape that he was in and was there any pity? No! With loud shouts! Crucify him! Crucify him!

When we see this picture, that is a pretty good depiction. Should we show pity? Oh, poor Jesus, what a shame! No! We should be convicted because that is what our sin did to him! God have pity on us if can't see that!

Pilate for a third time tells the Pharisees, "I find no guilt in him! You take him and crucify him, but the Pharisees throw another twist into the argument! Look at verses 7 and 8 again.

John 19:7-8

⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God."⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid.

This is the second time the Pharisees brought up this idea of a law. Pastor Kevin taught on the first one last week as the Pharisees, in verse 31 referred to the Roman law that none of their provinces had the authority to execute anyone. This law now that the Pharisees mention is from Leviticus 24:16.

Leviticus 24:16

16 Whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.

So, to really say they couldn't execute someone is a lie, but they did have the law from the Romans that said they couldn't. But do you think the Romans cared if the Jews killed each other? Probably not! Again, we see prophecy fulfilled here because the law in Leviticus said they were to stone them. Pilate knew that.

But the Pharisees were afraid of the people. If they did kill Jesus themselves then they would have had a riot of their own to take care of so, let's put it all on Pilate. The Pharisees said something to Pilate that brought even more struggles to Pilate's spirit.

They finally shared the real reason they brought Jesus before Pilate. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. This made Pilate even more afraid. Why? Simple! The Romans had many gods they worshiped. They were superstitious about so many things. Pilate is thinking now, "What if Jesus was a God? Am I going to be cursed because of what I am doing to this man, possibly being a god?"

Remember last week when Pilate asked Jesus if he was King of the Jews? Jesus spoke of his kingdom not being of this world and that he has come to bear witness to truth and all those who are of the truth listens to Jesus' voice! What did Pilate say? What is truth? The very truth was standing right in front of him.

Here he is now wondering, "Could Jesus be a god?" Jesus is God! The creator of the world was standing right in front of him and the one who has authority over all the universe. Jesus tells Pilate this during their next exchange. Here we go again though, Pilate and Jesus now head back into Pilate's headquarters.

John 19:9-11

9 He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" 11 Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore, he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

Pilate's curiosity of Jesus "possibly" being a god like the mythological, false gods the Romans worshiped was getting to him. Jupiter, Juno, Apollo, Diana to just name a few, but these do not exist. The Romans believed that these gods would visit in human form from time to time. So, Pilate asks Jesus where are you from? Jesus had already answered that question and it did not require another response.

When we get afraid, fear can transition into anger as well. I truly believe that Pilate was amazed by Jesus. He had to have known about the miracles that Jesus had performed. Remember the note from his wife? ***"Have nothing to do with this righteous man!"*** Men, has your wife ever said, "Honey, I don't have a good feeling about this, or I just sense something wrong here!" I have and I can't think of a time when she was wrong when that happened.

Pilate now tries to show his power! You will not speak to me? ***"Do you not know I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?"*** Really Pilate? Why haven't you, you said he was innocent! Pilate had no authority in this situation. May I say, neither did the Pharisees or the crowd. Jesus tells us who had all the authority here.

If you are wondering if I am God, Pilate? The answer is simple! Yes! I am and the authority you think you have right now is only by the good graces of the one true God. Let me read to you from Colossians of who has all the authority and power in this world.

Colossians 1:15-17

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

As before, truth was standing right in front of Pilate, the creator of the universe who holds all things together is right in front of him. The one who can provide salvation for Pilate and take all this concertation, strife, and turmoil that Pilate is going through right now and give him peace and eternal life is standing right in front of him.

Jesus does say something that may be a bit strange in the last part of verse 11 where Jesus says, ***“Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”*** What does this mean and who is Jesus talking about? It is not God, though this is in God’s sovereign plan, and it does not alleviate Pilate of any guilt.

It is the High Priest Caiaphas. Caiaphas who knew the Scripture and should have known how Jesus fulfilled all the Scripture that prophesied about the Messiah. Remember it was Caiaphas who back in Chapter 11 when the Pharisees were scared that they were going to lose their position and Roman was going to take away their land if they let Jesus continue on as he was.

Caiaphas tried to calm everyone down and said, “Don’t you know that it is better for one man to die than a whole nation. From that time on the Pharisees sought to devise a plan to have Jesus killed.

I truly believe there is a war going on in Pilate’s heart right now. Look at verses 12 to 16.

John 19:12-16

12 From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” 13 So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. 14 Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” 15 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 So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Pilate now leaves Jesus in his headquarters and heads back out to talk with the Jews. Man, his Fitbit, or Apple watch is probably going, “Way to go Pilate, you have definitely got your steps in today!” Remember he is going from inside his headquarters, out to where the Jews were because they didn’t want to defile themselves. He then would go back into his headquarters where Jesus is. Pilate would bring Jesus out to where the Jews are, take Jesus back into his headquarters to talk to Jesus.

Pilate is now doing all he can to get Jesus released. The phrase “From Then On” is a singular Greek word which is:

Zeteo: Meaning, to strive, to seek, to demand.

Showing this was a continuous conversation? How long did Pilate again try to release Jesus? We don’t know but he was trying again. The Jews pull out the trump card! Release Jesus and you are no friend of Caesar! What was Pilate’s downfall?

His lust for power, what others thought about him. In this case possibly his life. Pilate was a politician! I am convinced he knew what he was doing was wrong. So, at those words, he brings Jesus out and Pilate sits down

on what is called the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, named Gabbatha. ***Gabbatha – elevated, platform***

One quick side note here. We saw where it is said it was the day of the Preparation of the Passover. What we must realize is the Passover meal is the beginning of a seven-day celebration, that includes a Saturday Sabbath day and then the celebration of First Fruits the first day after the Sabbath, which would have been a Sunday.

That place was destroyed in 70 A.D. but within the area there was a place that Pilate would make rulings from. Pilate sits down and brings out Jesus. Pilate in one desperate try to release Jesus.

Behold your King!

Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!

Shall I crucify your King?

The chief priests answered: We have no king but Caesar!

What they just said was true! They have rejected the one and only true King of the universe and have put their faith in the world.

So, Pilate delivered Jesus to be crucified! What did Pilate do next?



Washed his hands! Thinking somehow that took care of any of his guilt.

I thought a lot about what we have studied the past two Sundays. All that we have covered happened in a few short hours.

1. Jesus is arrested and taken to Annas the high priest to begin the greatest injustice in the history of the world.

2. Annas sends Jesus to Caiaphas
3. Caiaphas send Jesus to Pilate
4. Pilate sends Jesus to Herod
5. Herod sends Jesus back to Pilate.

All this happens in the very early morning. Then Pilate doing his little dance of going back and forth from inside his headquarters out to the Stone Pavement area to talk to the Pharisees. I was thinking about all the players in this injustice. Pilate, Caiaphas, the Pharisees, the crowd! Of course, I thought about all of you and myself.

Every week whoever is in the pulpit is really in a way saying, “Behold the Man! Behold Jesus!” You may be like Caiaphas. You have all this knowledge about Jesus, but you have not come to that point of repentance, and you have hardened your heart. I pray you have not hardened your heart to the point that God tells the Holy Spirit not to convict you. You do realize that is a real possibility, don’t you? **Romans 1:28-32**

You may even be asking and wrestling with the questions of, “What is Truth? Is Jesus really God?”

The answer is all of truth is embodied by Jesus Christ for he is “The Way, The Truth, and The Life! No one comes to the Father except through Jesus Christ!” Is Jesus really God? Does he hold authority over all of creation?”

Yes! He proved it in so many ways! Born of a virgin! Lived a sinless life! Miracle after Miracle! What Jesus has been going through and will continue to go through for the forgiveness of sin and for our salvation!

So, I say! Behold the man! Not just the man! Behold the God Man! Behold the King of Kings and Lord of Lords Jesus Christ! Repent and surrender your life to Jesus today!