

I. Introduction: Pilate made many efforts to set Jesus free while trying to appease the Jewish crowd, but soon he discovered that they were determined to crucify Him.

II. Pilate's Failed Attempts to Free Jesus (John 18:39-19:7).

A. Pilate's Appeal to Popularity (vv. 39-40).

1. Pilate tried to appeal to the popularity of Jesus, hoping that he could bypass the evil intentions of the Jewish leaders by offering to release a prisoner to the people.

B. Pilate's Appeal to Violence (vv. 1-3).

1. Pilate believed that if he publicly beat Jesus, the crowd's lust for blood would be quenched, and then he could release Him without a riot occurring.

C. Pilate's Appeal to Sympathy (vv. 4-5).

1. Pilate paraded Jesus in front of the people and made a public spectacle of Him, hoping that the crowd would take pity on Jesus and ask for His release.

D. Pilate's Appeal to Justice (vv. 6-7).

1. Pilate announced to the Jews that he had found no reason to execute Jesus, but the Jews insisted that He must die because He claimed to be the Son of God.

III. Conclusion: Pilate tried several ways to appease the crowd, but they continued to scream for Jesus' blood, so he began to fear he was being cornered into executing an innocent man.

Questions About: Pilate's Failed Attempts to Free Jesus

1. How does public opinion affect you? What does the world think about Jesus? Why does the world hate Jesus? How did Pilate try to free Jesus? Why did Pilate end up crucifying Jesus?
2. What was the first way that Pilate tried to set Jesus free? (**John 18:39-40**) How did Pilate try to use an old Roman custom to free Jesus? (**v. 40**) Who was Barabbas? What crime did he commit?
3. How did Pilate appeal to Jesus' popularity to get Him released? (**John 18:39-40**) Why did the Jews ask for Barabbas instead of Jesus? (**Matt 27:20**) How are mobs easily manipulated?
4. What was the second way that Pilate tried to acquit Jesus? (**John 19:1-3**) What does scourging entail? (**v. 1**) What did the soldiers do to humiliate Jesus? (**v. 2**) How did they abuse Him? (**v. 3**)
5. How did Pilate appeal to the sympathy of the crowd to acquit Jesus? (**John 19:4-5**) What did Pilate say when he brought Jesus out to the mob? (**v. 5**) Why did he say "Behold the Man"?
6. Why did the Jews not feel sorry for Jesus? Why do sinners not feel compassion for Him? (**John 15:8-25**) Why was Jesus such a danger to the Jewish leaders? (**John 11:47-51**)
7. What was Pilate's official judgment concerning Jesus? (**John 18:38, 19:4, 6**) How was Pilate willing to compromise to please the mob? (**John 19:6-7**) What would you have done?
8. What was the final charge that the Jews brought against Jesus? (**John 19:7-8**) Why did this accusation make Pilate afraid? (**John 19:8**) How are we like Barabbas in this story?

Prayer

1. Pray that God would help you to overcome the need for approval from the world.
2. Ask Jesus to help you not to compromise to win the admiration of your peers.