

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS
Jesus Sentenced To Death
Matthew 27:11-26
Week 54 August 29, 2021
Pastor Mike Popovich

The world, Jewish or otherwise, was not receptive to Jesus' message of love and grace.

It seems completely barbaric to require a perfect human sacrifice.
But such is the nature of sin.

Jesus knew He was to be that sacrifice.

JESUS BEFORE PILATE

Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "You have said so," Jesus replied. ¹² When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" ¹⁴ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor. Matthew 27:11-14 NIV

When Pilate asked Jesus if He was King of the Jews, He said yes. While at the moment it was true spiritually, it did not appear true physically.

*Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this purpose I have been born, and for this I have come into the world: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice." ³⁸ Pilate *said to Him, "What is truth?" And after saying this, he came out again to the Jews and *said to them, "I find no grounds at all for charges in His case. John 18:37-38 NAS*

PILATE ATTEMPS TO PASS THE BUCK

Now at the Passover Feast the governor was accustomed to release for the people any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶ And at that time they were holding a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when the people gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸ For he knew that it was because of envy that they had handed Him over. Matthew 27:15-18 NAS

He could have easily dismissed the case for lack of a crime committed. But he tried to play it off on the people using the festival practice of releasing a prisoner to the crowd.

It did not work. The priests were working the crowd and coaching them to call for the release of Barabbas.

From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar." John 19:12 NIV

PILATE WASHES HIS HANDS

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" ²⁵ All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!" ²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Matthew 27:24-26 NIV

Peter explains how Jesus became our Savior:

"Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. Acts 3:17-20 NIV

Jesus took your place.

It has changed everything.

What was once impossible, for us to be with God, is now the grace of salvation and reconciliation paid for by Jesus.