

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN
The Cross Is Before Him
John 19:1-16
Week 30 August 16, 2026
Pastor Mike Popovich

Pilate is looking for a way out. He finds no guilt in Jesus.

JESUS IS SCOURGED

Pilate then took Jesus and Has Him scourged.

John 19:1 NAS

After the soldiers flogged Him they decided to present him as a King.

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.

John 19:2-3 ESV

They said and did things that were true without realizing it.

THE VERDICT

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." John 19:4-6 ESV

They have presented their case and Pilate is refusing to execute Jesus.

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.

John 19:7-8 ESV

While that comment shook Pilate up he was not ready to execute Jesus yet.

PILATE'S AUTHORITY CHALLENGED

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." 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."

John 19:9-12 ESV

God is sovereign. God is God. Any and all authority wielded on earth comes from God. We are responsible to handle that authority properly because one day we will be judged by what we do with it.

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

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.

John 19:13-16 ESV

Pilate presents Jesus as their king.

The religious leaders say we have no King but Caesar.

He does not make the religious leaders fall in line. But even when they force their own will it does not change what God has planned.