

**THE STORY of THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST****Lesson 14****Matthew 27.2, 11-31****CRUCIFY HIM! CRUCIFY HIM!, part 2**

Pilate continued to cast about for any means he might come up with to be free of dealing with Jesus. His wife had now confirmed his nagging fears and suspicions that not only was this a grudge case and without any judicial or legal merit -- but His claims to be Divine might just be true! *Matthew 27.17-19*

**CHRIST, YOUR MESSIAH AND KING? or that scumbag BARABBAS?**

Pilate had offered to make this prisoner swap for them. He was trying to make a direct appeal to the people. He knew that the religious leaders who had delivered Jesus to him had no love for Him and wouldn't consider having Him released under any condition or consideration.

It might even appear that this brilliant maneuver came to Pilate's mind when the people began coming to him, asking him to honor the long-standing custom which had been offered by the Romans to release a prisoner of their choice to them at the Passover feast.

***Mark 15.6-10: Now at the feast he was accustomed to releasing one prisoner to them, whomever they requested. <sup>7</sup>And there was one named Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion. <sup>8</sup>Then the multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do just as he had always done for them. <sup>9</sup>But Pilate answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" <sup>10</sup>For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.***

Notice that Pilate appealed to their nationalism...and their religious pride. He called Jesus "the King of the Jews." *Matthew 27.17* says that he called Him also: "Jesus which is called Christ". It is plain that Pilate is desperately hoping the people's wills will overrule the leaders' jealousy and murderous intents. ***{We noted in our last lesson how Barabbas was arrested, jailed, and was awaiting execution for insurrection, robbery, and murder.}***

Pilate even sweetened the deal for the people by offering to "chastise" Jesus before releasing Him, if they would choose Him. That way, he could be free from the responsibility of having to deal with Jesus, and at the same time, satisfy the seemingly popular desire to see Jesus suffer punishment in some way.

***Luke 23.13-16. (The word "chastise" means that Pilate was willing even to have an innocent man unjustly scourged and tortured to satisfy the bloodthirst which was clamoring against Him.)***

But, the chief priests had already been working the crowd. I suppose they were passionately telling the people: "We know a lot you don't know. We have already examined and tried Him and He's not just a fake and a phony...HE'S A BLASPEMER. HE SAYS HE IS GOD! We can't let Him live. He's an insult and affront to our God and our religion. You have to trust us. This scoundrel needs to die -- and TODAY!"

***Mark 15.11: But the chief priests stirred up the crowd, so that he should rather release Barabbas to them.***

***Matthew 27.20: But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. <sup>21</sup>The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!"***

He asked them more than once. They began to shout and chant like a rabid mob: ***And they all cried out at once, saying, "Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas" Luke 23.18.***

**PILATE HAS JESUS SCOURGED**

So, Pilate gave in and ordered to have Jesus scourged. ***John 19.1: So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him.***

The Roman scourging was not the same thing as a Jewish whipping or beating. The Jews had a punishment which was administered by 39 lashes with a cane or a rod. ***2 Corinthians 11.24-25a***, This came from ***Deuteronomy 25.1-3***. God instituted the whipping punishment to be painful and memorable; but He decreed that mercy should prevail and stop with 39 blows.

***But, the Roman scourging was a merciless act of torture.*** The scourge was a whip made out of a short wooden handle with numerous long leather lashes attached to it. Each leather lash would have a piece of sharp metal, bone, or glass attached to its end. The victim would be stripped of all clothing and tied to a post by his wrists. His hands would be tied up high enough over his head that his feet would barely touch the ground or the floor. His skin and muscles would be stretched taut across his back and buttocks. One or two scourge bearers would then skillfully administer the lashings with extreme force, usually diagonally across the back and buttocks. The effect would be that the skin would be immediately lacerated and separated, opening gaping flesh wounds; the sharp objects would imbed into the muscles and rip them deeply. It was not at all uncommon for the lacerations to be laid one upon the other and cut deeper and deeper until the victim may even be disemboweled. The kidneys were sometimes cut. Spinal injuries and paralysis sometimes occurred. Many victims of scourging died from the scourging itself due to extreme shock, loss of blood, or internal injuries.

**Psalm 129.3: The plowers plowed on My back; they made their furrows long.**

**Isaiah 53.4-5: Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.**

**BEHOLD THE MAN!**

The Roman soldiers are not content to just physically abuse and mutilate Jesus by the scourging. They will further humiliate Him. They haven't had this much entertainment in a long time. They have an open opportunity to abuse this helpless victim WHO CLAIMS TO BE THE KING OF THESE PESKY LOW-LIFE JEWS. They hated having to be on this assignment, anyway.

***John 19.2-3: And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands.***

Pilate is sure the Jewish people will not allow him to abuse Jesus any more this way. And besides that - SURELY THEY WILL HAVE SOME HUMAN SYMPATHY FOR HIS HUMANITY...even if they do not respect His claims to be their king.

***John 19.4-5: Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him."***

***<sup>5</sup>Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"***

But, were their sympathies stirred or moved at all? ***Luke 23.20-23: Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. <sup>21</sup>But they shouted, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"***

***<sup>22</sup>Then he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go." <sup>23</sup>But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed. {Pilate had already returned three distinct "NOT GUILTY verdicts: *John 18.38; 19.4; 19.6****

Now, this is the second time in Luke's same account that Pilate has said: ***"I will chastise Him and let Him go."*** Meaning: "I have abused this innocent Man enough. I'm not going any further. I'm not going to jeopardize myself any more."

### NO DEAL!

***John 19.7-12:*** The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

<sup>8</sup>Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, <sup>9</sup>and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.

<sup>10</sup>Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?"

<sup>11</sup>Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

<sup>12</sup>From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."

They are obviously yanking on Pilate's political ambition strings, blackmailing him, extorting him, telling him that if he even thinks about letting Jesus go, they will report him again to Caesar for sympathizing with an avowed enemy of the Roman state! (See ***Luke 23.2, 5***)

### BEHOLD YOUR KING!

Pilate has one more desperate card to play.

HE WILL APPEAL ONE MORE TIME TO THEIR NATIONALISM...

and SHAME THEM INTO NOT ALLOWING HIM TO TREAT THEIR KING THIS WAY!

***John 19.13-14:*** When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called *The Pavement*, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.

<sup>14</sup>Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour.

And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"

The crowd exploded with fury! ***John 19.15:*** But 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!"

So -- they have no sympathies for His humanity. They don't even recognize Him as being one of their own human kind! They certainly have no allegiances to His Lordship or sovereignty.

***John 1.10-13:*** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup>He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup>But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

<sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

### WHO KILLED JESUS?

Pilate does all he can do. He goes through a public ceremonial washing of his hands, as if to exonerate himself and justify himself from any culpability in what he is about to do.

***Matthew 27.24-25:*** <sup>24</sup>When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all,

but rather *that* a tumult was rising, he took water and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see *to it*."

<sup>25</sup>And all the people answered and said, "His blood *be* on us and on our children."

**WHO IS REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR JESUS' DEATH?**

**WHO REALLY SIGNED HIS DEATH WARRANT AND MURDERED THE SON OF GOD?**

A. T. Robertson says: “*Pilate, of course, could not escape full legal and moral responsibility for his cowardly surrender to the **Sanhedrin** to keep his own office. The guilt of the **Sanhedrin** (both Pharisees and Sadducees unite in the demand for the blood of Jesus) is beyond dispute. It is impossible to make a merely political issue out of it and to lay all the blame on the **Sadducees**, who feared a revolution. The **Pharisees** began the attacks against Jesus on theological and ecclesiastical grounds. The **Sadducees** later joined the conspiracy against Christ. **Judas** was a mere tool of the Sanhedrin, who had his resentments and grievances to avenge. There is guilt enough for all the plotters in the greatest wrong of the ages.*”

The apostles later included also **Herod** and the **Gentiles**.

**Acts 4.27-28:** “For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together <sup>28</sup>to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

But, LOOK WHO ELSE THEY INCLUDE IN THEIR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF WHO PUT JESUS TO DEATH! “...to do **WHATEVER YOUR HAND AND YOUR PURPOSE DETERMINED BEFORE TO BE DONE.**” (See *Revelation 13.8*)

Every human enemy of Jesus Christ will answer for his and their injustices and abuses.

But, the bottom line truth is this: GOD PURPOSED IN THE ETERNAL COVENANT THAT THE CHRIST MUST DIE AND COMMANDED HIM TO DIE -- BECAUSE WE HAD SINNED AND HIS SACRIFICE FOR US WAS THE ONLY PAYMENT GOD WOULD ACCEPT TO EFFECT OUR JUSTIFICATION AND FORGIVENESS.

**Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12:** Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

<sup>10</sup>Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put *Him* to grief.

When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.

<sup>11</sup>He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied.

By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,

and He shall divide the spoil with the strong,

because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

### BUT, WAIT! THERE’S MORE!

**Luke 23.24-25:** So Pilate gave sentence that it should be AS THEY REQUESTED.

<sup>25</sup>And he released to them the one they requested, who for rebellion and murder had been thrown into prison; BUT HE DELIVERED JESUS TO THEIR WILL.

**Matthew 27.27-30:** Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. <sup>28</sup>And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. <sup>29</sup>When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put *it* on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” <sup>30</sup>Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. <sup>31</sup>And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His *own* clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.