

Episode #2-23 – John 19 Part 1 - More Problems of Pilate

I. The purpose of the gospel of John is to produce believers in the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the One anointed by God to be the Savior of the world, and that Jesus is the Son of God, God represented in human form.

II. We have come to the section of John that deals with the Lord's arrest and trials leading up to His death on the cross. In this section, we continue considering the Lord's trial before Pilate. The Jews would not tell him their accusation. The Lord denied His kingdom is from here. Pilate offered the Jews the Lord instead of Barabbas, but they refused Pilate this way out.

III. John 19:1-3. Pilate mistreats the Lord Jesus.

- A. V.1. Pilate attempt to appease the Jews. Remember, he admitted he found no fault in Him! How unfair was it to scourge a man he admitted was innocent? Pilate was clearly not worried about doing right, just about trying to defuse the situation.
- B. V.2. The soldiers probably assume He is a traitor, to whom they would give little sympathy. A crown is a symbol of kingly authority, and purple is the kingly color. The Lord was much more than just a King!
- C. V.3. He really was the Jews' king. The Roman soldiers assumed this was bad. But there was no reason Rome would not sanction a people to have their own king.

IV. John 19:4-7. Pilate and the Jews.

- A. V.4. John 18:28, Pilate brought Him out because the Jews would not go in. He may have hoped the Lord would look pathetic enough to inspire pity in them.
- B. V.5. He surely did look pitiable and unthreatening, but their hatred was too deep.
- C. V.6. The sight of their enemy arouses their fury. Note who cries this: the leaders, not the crowd. This was the middle of the night, and the common people were not present. Pilate is sarcastic, since only Rome could crucify. This is why they came to Pilate at all: they wanted the Lord to be hung on a tree, not just stoned.
- D. V.7. Earlier, they would not reveal their accusation against the Lord (18:30.) Now they reveal this much to keep him from dropping the case. If their eyes were not blinded, they would have seen that this was the truth!

V. John 19:8-11. Pilate and the Lord Jesus.

- A. V.8. The first he has heard that the Lord claimed to be a supernatural Being. But Pilate must have known of His miracles, and noted His strange attitude. Matt. 27:19. Now he starts wondering: is he dealing with a supernatural being?
- B. V.9. Pilate did not mean His hometown! The Lord would give no answer. If He had told Pilate and that had caused him to do the right thing and release Him out of fear, He would not have died as He planned to die.
- C. V.10. Pilate seems to regain confidence. Surely a supernatural being would say so, and would not allow Himself to get into such trouble! He looked pathetic as well after the beating Pilate's men had given Him. Surely Pilate could not believe Him a god!
- D. V.11. This was true in two ways: Pilate had power from above over the Lord from Rome, and from God. Those who delivered Him to Pilate were Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin. They did not have power from a higher source, but had appointed themselves as rulers over God's people Israel. "From above" = *anohen*, as we had so significantly in John 3:3.

VI. John 19:12-16. The final results of the trial.

A. V.12. Pilate now plans to release Him. He sees His innocence, and still has some fear that He is more than He seems. Now the Jews play their most clever hand. They make a clear threat: if Pilate lets the Lord go, they will let Caesar know, and will make his actions sound most suspicious. Pilate is not stable enough as a ruler to ignore this.

B. V.13. He yields to their threat. He leads the Lord out of the Praetorium, and sits in the judgment (*bema*) seat in "The Pavement," a raised platform strewn with stones topped with a chair. Gabbatha is an unknown word, probably the same as Pavement.

VII. Conclusion: Pilate feared the consequences of condemning the Lord, but at the last he feared the religious leaders and the consequences of not condemning Him more. Whom do we fear more: human beings or God? Ultimate, it is God, not other people, who will decide our fate. Let us learn a lesson from Pilate, and reserve our highest respect and fear for the Lord Jesus Christ!