

His Final Day

(Jesus Before Pilate)

Mark 15:1-15

15 Very early in the morning the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law—the entire high council[a]—met to discuss their next step. They bound Jesus, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor.

2 Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus replied, “You have said it.”

3 Then the leading priests kept accusing him of many crimes, **4** and Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer them? What about all these charges they are bringing against you?” **5** But Jesus said nothing, much to Pilate’s surprise.

6 Now it was the governor’s custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner—anyone the people requested. **7** One of the prisoners at that time was Barabbas, a revolutionary who had committed murder in an uprising. **8** The crowd went to Pilate and asked him to release a prisoner as usual.

9 “Would you like me to release to you this ‘King of the Jews’?” Pilate asked. **10** (For he realized by now that the leading priests had arrested Jesus out of envy.) **11** But at this point the leading priests stirred up the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus. **12** Pilate asked them, “Then what should I do with this man you call the king of the Jews?”

13 They shouted back, “Crucify him!”

14 “Why?” Pilate demanded. “What crime has he committed?”

But the mob roared even louder, “Crucify him!”

15 So to pacify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

* Around 7:00 a.m. Friday morning Jesus was led from the palace of the High Priest.

* They had found Him guilty of blasphemy and decided that He must die!

* Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, was the only person who had the authority to declare capital punishment.

* Since Jesus claimed to be the Messiah, the Anointed One, they were sure that Pilate would have no part in allowing Jesus to claim rule over Pilate's and Rome's subjects! Surely Pilate would put Jesus to death!

I. Jesus is taken to Pilate.

A. He is led from Caiaphas' palace, a quarter of a mile away, to the Praetorium. The Governors' quarters.

1. John points out something very interesting!
2. He sees fit to point out the name of place where Jesus was judged.

John 19:13

13 When they said this, Pilate brought Jesus out to them again. Then Pilate sat down on the judgment seat on the platform that is called the Stone Pavement.

3. It is called "The Pavement"!
4. Did John record this to point out the many "coincidences" of day?
5. Shortly before had Jesus quoted from Psalm 118:22 which says, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone."
6. The "stone" was being rejected by the Jewish leaders standing at the "Stone Pavement"!

B. Jesus is silent before Pilate!

1. The Jewish authorities were well aware that Jesus never intended an insurrection against Rome!
2. Their charges would either cause Jesus to deny being the Messiah, or cause Pilate to have to put Him to death! Either way they win!
3. Pilate was astonished at Jesus' lack of response.

Mark 15:2-5

2 Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"
Jesus replied, "You have said it."

3 Then the leading priests kept accusing him of many crimes, **4** and Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer them? What about all these charges they are bringing against you?” **5** But Jesus said nothing, much to Pilate’s surprise.

4. It seems that Jesus is determined to die!

5. Maybe Jesus was thinking of Isaiah 53:6-7.

6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.
We have left God’s paths to follow our own.
Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.
7 He was oppressed and treated harshly,
yet he never said a word.
He was led like a lamb to the slaughter.
And as a sheep is silent before the shearers,
he did not open his mouth.

6. Jesus would often be seen fulfilling the scriptures as if intentionally acting them out.

Zechariah 9:9

9 Rejoice, O people of Zion!
Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem!
Look, your king is coming to you.
He is righteous and victorious,
yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—
riding on a donkey’s colt.

II. The developing picture of our atonement!

A. At the Last Supper Jesus explained that He has provided a New Covenant!

Matthew 26:26-28

26 As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, “Take this and eat it, for this is my body.”

27 And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, “Each of you drink from it, **28** for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant[a] between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.

1. This is our atonement! Or our “at-one-ment”!
2. Once again being in relationship with the Heavenly Father!
3. Now, able to fellowship with Him once again!

B. Theologians have argued over explaining the atonement for years!!

1. They have developed various “theories of atonement” such as:

- a) The Ransom Theory
- b) The Satisfaction Theory
- c) The Moral Exemplar Theory
- d) Penal Substitutionary Theory
- e) The Governmental Theory
- f) Christus Victor Theory

2. Regardless of our view, the death, burial and resurrection are central to our faith!!

III. Interesting custom of Pontius Pilate.

A. It had become customary for Pilate to release one prisoner to the Jewish people each year during Passover.

1. This was timed to coincide with the celebration of the Jews release from Egypt!
2. It seemed to be a pretty good political move and seen as an “act of mercy” meant to appease folks into submission.
3. This year Pilate gave them a choice! Jesus or Barabas!

Matthew 27:21

21 So the governor asked again, “Which of these two do you want me to release to you?”

The crowd shouted back, “Barabbas!”

B. People changed very suddenly!!!

Mark 11:9-10

9 Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting,

“Praise God!

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

10

Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David!

Praise God in highest heaven!”

Mark 15:12-13

12 Pilate asked them, “Then what should I do with this man you call the king of the Jews?”

13 They shouted back, “Crucify him!”

C. What had actually happened here?

1. We have to go back 190 years to fully understand this event!
2. A man named Simon Maccabees gathered enough people to run the Greeks out of Jerusalem!
3. They cleansed the Temple and established proper worship again!
4. This celebration was called Hanukkah or The Festival of Lights.
5. When Jesus rode in to Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday, the people once again gathered and celebrated Jesus as their deliverer and freedom fighter!
6. They quickly realized that the deliverance Jesus brought wasn't what they had hoped for. They desired a forceful military act!

IV. Jesus was and is counter cultural!!

A. Notice the words of the Sermon on the Mount and the beatitudes.

1. Jesus refused to take up a sword!
2. He had no interest in inciting a crowd.

3. He said, “Blessed are those who suffer for what is right.”
4. He said, “The meek would inherit the earth.”
5. Jesus even said, “If a Roman soldier forces you to carry his pack a mile, carry it another mile as well.”

B. Jesus said that the victory over Rome would not come by the sword! It would come by the power of “agape”. A sacrificial love that cannot ultimately be defeated.

1. The story of a God walking on earth as a humble carpenter is strange!
2. One who was victorious by suffering, dying and being raised from the dead is really weird.
3. The story of God, being a man, living counter to the culture is just plain outrageous!!

C. Is this not a story of history as well?

1. In the history of the black man’s walk to equality there were two very different approaches by two very different liberation leaders!
2. Malcolm X said, “ I don’t go for nonviolence if it means a delayed solution. If it must take violence to get the black man his human rights in this country, I’m for violence.”
3. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “ Our approach is to shame you into giving us our civil rights. We are going to show you, by our willingness to suffer, a different way. You can hurt us but we are going to love you.”

D. Pilate was in turmoil as to what to do with Jesus!

Matthew 27:24-26

24 Pilate saw that he wasn’t getting anywhere and that a riot was developing. So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood. The responsibility is yours!”

25 And all the people yelled back, “We will take responsibility for his death—we and our children!”[a]

26 So Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

1. Pilate caved in to the crowd!

Mark 15:15

15 So to pacify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

2. Pilate knew it was wrong! He had the power to stop it, but the crowd was compelling!

3. He sent Jesus to the cross to satisfy a fickle and unruly mob!

E. You have a faith, that at it's root, is **COUNTER CULTURAL!**
We must be prepared to look different from the world!!!!!!!!!!!!