

The Gospel of John – Part 66

Jesus Before Pilate

John 18:39 – 19:16

Desert Son Community Church

Tim Laycock, Senior Pastor

March 10 & 11, 2012

I. Introduction

The servant grew up before God—a scrawny seedling, a scrubby plant in a parched field. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look. He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand. One look at him and people turned away.

We looked down on him, thought he was scum. But the fact is, it was our pains he carried— our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him—our sins! He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed. We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. We've all done our own thing, gone our own way. And God has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong, on him, on him (Isaiah 53:2-6, The Message).

II. Pilate's *failed* proposals (John 18:39-19:7)

- Matthew called Barabbas a *notorious* prisoner (Matthew 27:16)
- Mark and Luke noted that Barabbas was a *murderer* and insurrectionist (Luke 23:19; Mark 15:7)
- Jewish law set the maximum number of blows at *forty* (Deuteronomy 25:3)

27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. 30 They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. 31 After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him, (Matthew 27:27-31, NIV).

15 Say to the Israelites: 'Anyone who curses their God will be held responsible; 16 anyone who blasphemes the name of the LORD is to be put to death. The entire assembly must stone them. Whether foreigner or native-born, when they blaspheme the Name they are to be put to death (Leviticus 24:15-16, NIV).

III. Pilate's *fatal* panic

While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him" (Matthew 27:19, NIV).

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth (Isaiah 53:7, NIV).

IV. Pilate's *final* pronouncement (John 19:13-16)

V. Application

- A. Pilate's dilemma expressed in the quotation in Matthew 27:22, "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" This is the very question that each of us must ask ourselves.
- B. And there are really only two alternatives:
 - 1. To stand with the naysayers and reject Jesus as the King of Kings, the Messiah
 - 2. Or, Acknowledge Jesus as Lord – there is no middle ground.

"This is war, and there is no neutral ground. If you're not on my side, you're the enemy; if you're not helping, you're making things worse, (Matthew 12:30, The Message).