

John Lesson 54 Crucify Him! John 19:1- 16

Pray: Before you begin lift your heart to God and ask for the Spirit's help as you read the passage and work through these questions in His divine presence and you certainly will be given understanding.

Background:

Pontius Pilate was cynical and skeptical. Known as a brutal man, he lacked the traditional Roman values of honor, justice and integrity. He was a dealer in compromise and expediency rather than a maintainer of justice. Pilate, in judging this case was coming from the perspective of crowd control. One of his jobs as prefect was to maintain order in his province. He would be held responsible by Rome for any uprising that occurred in his jurisdiction. A wrong decision on his part could easily mean removal from office. He already had a reputation in Rome of not co-operating with the Jewish leaders.

Pilate's decree was legally binding in all capital cases. He was authorized to judge alone in all cases involving public order, even if no specific laws had been violated.

Roman Law stated that silence by a defendant was not an admission of guilt, but without a defense of any kind, the defendant could be convicted by default.

The Day of Preparation was the day the Passover lamb was slaughtered.

The Jews wanted Jesus crucified not stoned. Stoning was the usual punishment for blasphemy. According to Deuteronomy 21:23 "he that is hanged is cursed of God." The Jews wanted all to know that Jesus was rejected and cursed of God.

Key words:

authority : Strong's G1849 "exousia" power, authority, strength, jurisdiction

crucify: Strong's G4716 "stauroo" to impale on a cross

When Pilate learned that Jesus was a Galilean and under the jurisdiction of Herod , he sent him over to Herod for questioning. Herod was glad to see Jesus because He had wanted to see a sign performed by Him. He questioned Jesus at some length, but Jesus made no answer, Herod and his soldiers treated Jesus with contempt and mocked him and then sent Him back to Pilate. Herod had not found Jesus guilty of any of the charges made by the Jewish rulers. (This account is found in Luke 23:6-12)

Read John 18:39-40 and John 19:1-16

1. When Jesus returns to Pilate what plan does Pilate come up with in order to get Jesus released?
John 18:39 What is the Jews response to Pilate's plan?

2. When that plan did not work, what approach did Pilate take next? John 19:1

3, How was this a fulfillment of Isaiah 53:5 (NASB) and according to that verse why was God allowing His faultless Son to be scourged?

Application: If we as Christians are called to suffer unjustly, how can we follow our Lord's example? (See 1 Peter 2:20-23)

4. What was the response of the Jewish leaders to seeing Jesus, beaten and adorned in the crown of thorns and the purple robe? (John 19:6-7)

Application: Many who profess to be religious will malign or mock Christians who stand for Christ and His truth. If you are treated in this way how should you respond? How has Jesus, our example, responded to the religious leaders throughout the Book of John?

5. Pilate becomes afraid when He hears the Jews say that Jesus calls Himself the Son of God. He questions Jesus further, but Jesus refuses to answer. Pilate becomes frustrated and reminds Jesus that He has the authority to release Him or crucify Him. What does Jesus reply to this in regards to the authority that Pilate has?

6. Pilate is still reluctant to pronounce the sentence of crucifixion as he finds Jesus not guilty of the charges. What accusation of the Jews in John 19:12 finally caused Pilate to pronounce the sentence of crucifixion? How did God use Pilate's weak character here to bring about His own plan of salvation?

7.. What is the significance of the trial and the crucifixion happening on the Day of Preparation? John 19:14 (See John 1:29)

Application: It is easy to lay the guilt of sending Jesus to the cross on the religious leaders and Pilate. In reality what part did each of us play in sending Jesus to the cross? (1 Peter 2:24)