

March 17, 2019

Jesus' Roman Trials

Matthew 27:11-26

First Trial: Before Pilate

Matt. 27:11-14; Mk. 15:2-5; Lk. 23:2-3; John 18:29-38

John 18:28-32 Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. 29 So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" 30 They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." 31 Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." 32 This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die

- By the time of Jesus, Rome had forbidden the Jews to execute by stoning. They needed to bring Jesus before Pilate.

Luke 23:2 And they began to accuse him, saying, [1] "We found this man misleading our nation and [2] forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, [3] and saying that he himself is Christ, a king."

- This charge gets Pilate's attention because it involves insurrection against Roman rule.

Matt 27:11a *Are you the King of the Jews?*

John 18:36-37 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." 37 "So you are a king?..." Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world— to bear witness to the Truth. Everyone who is of the Truth listens to my voice."

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me...

- Jesus stands before Pilate on behalf of His sheep, to lay down His life for His sheep (John 10:15).
- Because Pilate has no substantive proof that Jesus is guilty of sedition, he finds no legal ground for sentencing Jesus to death.

Luke 23:5 But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place."

Second Trial: Before Herod

Lk. 23:6-12

Luke 23:6-7 When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. 7 And when [Pilate] learned that [Jesus] belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time [for the Passover]...

- This is Herod Antipas, the youngest son of Herod the Great (Matt. 2:1-18).
- After the death of Herod the Great, Joseph returned from Egypt and took his family to Galilee which was under the rule of Herod Antipas (Matt. 2:19-23).
- This is the Herod who had John the Baptist beheaded (Matt. 14:1-11).

Luke 23:8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him.

- Finally Herod will meet this miracle working Man, hoping to see some tricks.

***Luke 23: 9-10** So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. 10 The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him.*

- When Jesus refused to perform for Herod, the priests took the opportunity to question Jesus, to show that Jesus was indeed a danger to Herod and to Rome.

***Luke 23:11** And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. 12 And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other*

- After being mocked by sinners, Jesus was returned to Pilate.

***Isa 53:3** He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised...*

Third Trial: Before Pilate

Matt. 27:15-26; Mk. 15:6-15; Lk. 23:13-25; Jn. 18:39-19:16

***Luke 23:13-23** Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, 14 and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. 15 Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. 16 I will therefore punish and release him." 18 But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas"— 19 a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. 20 Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, 21 but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" 22 A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." 23 But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed...>>*

Matt 27:15-26 Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. 16 And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. 17 So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" 18 For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. 19 Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." 20 Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. 21 The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." 22 Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" 23 And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" 24 So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." 25 And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" 26 Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified...

John 19:1-16 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. 2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. 3 They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. 4 Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." 5 So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" 6 When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." 7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." 8 When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. 9 He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" 11 Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin." 12 From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." 13 So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. 14 Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" 15 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." 16 So he delivered him over to them to be crucified