

Jesus Before Pilate

Matthew 27:1-2, 11-31; Mark 15:1-20; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-19:16

What words of Jesus in today's story do the symbols in the box portray?

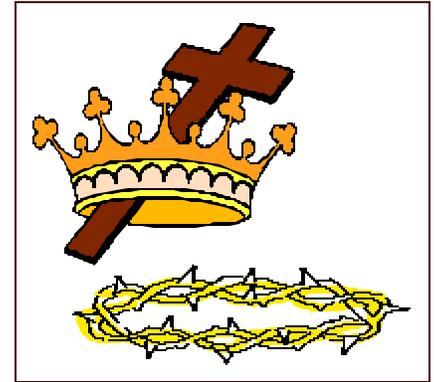
The Story - A Harmony of the Gospels

When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you." Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is

not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all."

And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly. They began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King." But they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching



throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place."

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long *time* to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked *Him*, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined *Him* in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. I will therefore chastise Him and release *Him*".

At the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas, who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder

in the rebellion. Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him."

But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" *They* all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!" Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. But they shouted, saying, "Crucify *Him*, crucify Him!" Then he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let *Him* go." But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed.

When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather *that* a tumult was rising, he took water and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see *to it*." And all the people answered and said, "His blood *be* on us and on our children." Then he released Barabbas to them.

So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged *Him*. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put *it* on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands. Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him."

Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And *Pilate* said to them, "Behold the Man!" Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify *Him*, crucify *Him*!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify *Him*, for I find no fault in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said to

Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "**You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.**" From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called *The Pavement*, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" But 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!" Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led *Him* away.

Outer Aim - Jesus was tried by the Roman governor and, though found to be innocent, was condemned.

Story Details - Make the following false statements regarding the story true.

1. Pilate was delighted that the people came to him as judge of Jesus.
2. Jesus never told Pilate He was a king but that He was born to lead the fight for the kingdom.
3. Pilate heard the accusations of the priests and elders and Jesus answered every accusation.
4. Herod requested Pilate to send Jesus to him.
5. Herod wanted to get to the truth of why the elders wanted Jesus to die.
6. Pilate, after hearing all the witnesses, found Jesus deserving of death.

7. Pilate was told to adhere to the custom of releasing one prisoner of his choice, so he chose Barnabas.
8. When Pilate couldn't decide on the punishment, he had Jesus killed by the sword.
9. The soldiers were kind to Jesus believing that He was the King of the Jews.
10. Jesus knew that Pilate had the power to kill Him and Jesus asked for mercy.

Inner Aim - Jesus willingly suffered under Pontius Pilate on His way to the cross.

What God Says To Us

Knowing Jesus had our salvation as His agenda throughout His life and during these last few hours, review what Isaiah prophesied to Israel about Jesus' purpose here on earth.

"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5

Pick out the different parts of the story that fulfills this prophecy.

How Does This Apply To Us

We can be confident that Jesus made payment in full for our sins. Scripture tells us many times over about the love God has for us. Review the following passages for how they apply to today's story.

John 3:16-17

Ephesians 2:8-10

Hebrews 9:12-15

What does the world need to realize before they can accept this good news of God's love, salvation?

List ways that we can share this wonderful news with others.

Student Prayer - Let us always remember what Jesus had to go through to pay the price for our sin and be grateful to Him for such deep love.

Dear Jesus, I'm sorry that my sins caused You so much pain. Thank You for willingly suffering all that You did to pay for those sins, especially Your crucifixion on the cross. Please help me now to tell everyone I know what You have done for all of us. Amen.