

LESSON #85 – JESUS CONDEMNED BY PILATE

Matt. 27:11-31; Mark 15:1-20; Luke 22:66-23:25; John 18:28-19:16

The Bible says that God is JUST. That means that God always does what is right. Because He is just God must punish sin. Now the Bible tells us that all men are sinners. Every person who has ever lived has sinned against God. So, every person who has ever lived must be punished by God. That means that there is no one who is good enough to pay for our sins because everyone is guilty. How can anyone who is guilty take the place of someone else? But God sent His own Son, Jesus, to take our place. He could do it because He was a true man, and yet, He was without sin. He was innocent. He was perfect. So He could take our place and take our punishment for us. This is what He did. In our lesson today we will see that even the human judge, Pilate, could find nothing that Jesus had done that was bad or against the Law. This assures us that Jesus was without sin and so could be our Savior.

By now it was early morning. The Jews had decided that Jesus must be crucified. But because of Roman law they could not kill Jesus themselves. So they took Jesus to the Roman governor whose name was Pilate. There they began to accuse Jesus, saying lies about Him. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Yes, it is as you say." Pilate did not like the Jews and he did not want to get involved with them. So he said, "I find no basis for a charge against this man." But the Jews shouted that Jesus was stirring up the people for a rebellion. He had started in Galilee and now had come to Jerusalem.

When Pilate heard that Jesus was from Galilee he had an idea. The governor of Galilee was in Jerusalem at this time, so he would send Jesus there and he could do with Him whatever he wanted. So Pilate sent them to Herod, the governor of Galilee. When Herod saw Jesus he was pleased because he had heard many things about Him. He hoped to see Jesus do some miracle. But Jesus would not even speak to him. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there yelling their lies about Jesus. So Herod and his soldiers made fun of Jesus, dressing Him in a beautiful robe like a King and then they sent Him back to Pilate.

Pilate did not know what to do with Jesus. He asked Him some questions about His kingdom. Every King has a place where He rules. But Jesus told him that His kingdom was not of this world. Jesus meant that He was King over men's hearts, and over the whole creation. Pilate still did not want to put Jesus to death. He did not find anything bad about Him. It was his practice to release a prisoner to the Jews while they celebrated the feast of the Passover. So Pilate told them that they could have Jesus or a man named Barabbas who was a criminal and had broken the law many times. Pilate thought that they would take Jesus but they shouted for Barabbas. Then Pilate took Jesus and had his soldiers beat Him. They made a crown out of thorns for His head and put a purple robe on Him. They spit in His face and made fun of Him.

Then Pilate brought Jesus out again and told the people that he could find no basis for a charge against Him. But as soon as the chief priests and the rest of the leaders of the Jews saw Jesus they shouted, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him!" They told Pilate that He must die because He claimed to be the Son of God and because He said He was a King. Pilate would get in trouble with the Roman King if he didn't kill Jesus. Pilate got some water and washed his hands as if to say that whatever happened to Jesus was not his fault. He asked Jesus to say something because he had the power to put Him to death. But Jesus told him that he would not be able to do it unless it was what God wanted. God was more powerful than Pilate. Finally, it was time. Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.

Memory Verse: "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down His life for His friends." – John 15:13.

Application: Because Jesus was perfect, He could die for our sins!

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Matthew 27:11-31; Mark 15:1-20; Luke 22:66-23, 25; John 18:28-19:16

The Jews had decided that Jesus must die. They did not care about God's kingdom. They did not admit that they were sinners, and that they needed a Savior. They only knew that if Jesus was made king by the people, the powerful Roman army would probably destroy them. They loved the city of Jerusalem and the temple more than they loved God and His Son. Jesus is indeed, a king. He had told them plainly that His kingdom was not of this world. His kingdom was a "spiritual" kingdom. That means that Jesus came to rule over men's hearts! Even before He was born, God had spoken that He would rule over God's people Forever! No earthly king could do that! The Jews had not understood because their minds were closed and their eyes blinded by sin. They thought only about the things on the earth instead of the things in heaven. They wanted to get rid of Jesus who was causing so much trouble.

It was very early in the morning. The Jews could not kill Jesus themselves, so they took Him to the Roman governor whose name was Pilate. They stood before Pilate and told him all sorts of lies about Jesus. Then Pilate began to speak to Jesus. He could see that Jesus was different somehow. He had not said a word to defend Himself. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Pilate had heard some of the things about Jesus as people had spoken about Him in Jerusalem. Jesus answered, "Yes, it is as you say." Pilate did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God, but he did not think that He had done anything wrong either. He told that to the Jews. The Jews shouted that Jesus was trying to start a war against Rome with His teaching. They said that He had started way up in Galilee many miles away, but now He had come to Jerusalem to stir up trouble.

Well, when Pilate heard that Jesus was from Galilee, he had an idea. The governor of Galilee whose name was Herod just happened to be in Jerusalem at this time. Pilate could send Jesus to him and then he would not have to bother with Him or with the Jews. That is what he did. Herod was a foolish man. He was very proud of himself and his power as a Roman governor. He had heard about Jesus, and he thought he was just like a Magician. He wanted Jesus to do some miracles. Jesus would not even speak to him. Meanwhile, the Jews were still telling their lies, hoping that they would put Jesus to death. When Herod could not get Jesus to do any miracles, he and his soldiers began to make fun of Him. Since He claimed to be a king, they dressed Him in a beautiful robe like a king, and they sent Him back to Pilate.

Pilate was not happy to see Jesus again. He had thought that He was rid of Him and the bothersome Jews. Pilate tried to get Jesus to tell him about His kingdom. Then Jesus told him, that His kingdom was not in this world. It was not a kingdom that you could see with your eyes. Pilate still did not want to punish Jesus because he could see that he had not done anything wrong. He decided to try to free Him by offering the Jews either Jesus or a man named Barabbas who was a criminal. This was the custom on the Jew's Passover celebration; to let one prisoner go. Pilate thought that they would chose Jesus, but instead the Jews called for Barabbas.

Then Pilate tried to satisfy the Jews by beating Jesus and mocking Him, by putting a purple robe on Him and a crown of thorns for His head. He told the people that he found no basis for a charge against Jesus. But the Jews cried out, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" They told Pilate that since Jesus claimed to be a king, Pilate could get in trouble if he did not kill Jesus. A man named Caesar was the king of Rome. If he found out about Jesus, Caesar might get angry with Pilate for letting him go. Finally, Jesus told Pilate that he could only do this because it was what God wanted. Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified.

Jesus Condemned by Pilate (Continued)

Name: _____ Date: _____

MEMORY VERSE

“He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.” – Isaiah 53:7

APPLICATION

All men have sinned against God. Only a man could take our place and be punished for us. But this man would have to be perfect. He would have to be without sin. Yet, this one would have to be so powerful that He could stand the awful punishment of God against our sin. Only Jesus could do that. He was without sin. Even Pilate could not find anything that He had done that was wrong. Jesus came to be the King of His people. He is king for all those who believe that He is the Son of God, and that He died and rose again and is now in heaven, ruling over all things for the good of His people.

QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom.

1. The Jews did not believe in Jesus because they did not admit that they were sinners who needed a _____.
2. You cannot see the kingdom of Jesus because His kingdom is a _____ kingdom in men’s hearts.
3. Since it was against the law for the Jews to put Jesus to death themselves, they took Him to _____, the Roman governor.
4. Pilate did not _____ in Jesus, but he wanted to let Him go because he did not think that Jesus had done anything that was wrong.
5. When Pilate heard that Jesus was from _____, he tried to get rid of Jesus by sending Him to Herod, the governor of Galilee.
6. Herod made fun of Jesus and tried to get Him to do a _____.
7. While Pilate and Herod were sinning by making fun of Jesus and beating Him, it was the _____ who were guilty of rejecting Jesus the most, for they had the Scriptures which told about the coming Savior.
8. The Jews told _____ about Jesus to try to persuade Pilate that He had done something that was wrong.
9. Pilate tried once more to let Jesus go by letting the Jews choose between Jesus and _____, but the Jews did not want him to let Jesus go.
10. When Pilate asked what should be done with Jesus, the Jews cried out to _____ Him.

believe
Barabbas
crucify
lies

Savior
spiritual
Pilate

Galilee
Jews
miracle

LESSON #85 – JESUS IN GETHSEMANE

Read Matt, 26:36-45; Mark 14:32-42 Luke 22:39-46

The suffering of Jesus was now reaching its worst moments. Jesus was a true man. He knew what was about to happen to Him. He knew, more than ever, that He needed strength and power from God if He was to resist the temptation not to go to the cross. This was the final temptation which the devil put in front of Him. At the beginning of His ministry the devil had tried to tempt Jesus into worshipping him and now the devil was at work again, trying to make Jesus stay away from the cross. But see where Jesus gets His strength: through prayer to the Father. The disciples needed strength, too, but they were too weak and tired to pray with Jesus. The following events were not going to happen by accident as others might think. This was all happening according to the plan and purpose of God. Everything which the Prophets had predicted about the Savior would be fulfilled in Jesus. This was the time of salvation for God’s people! Jesus knew that God’s will must be done!

QUESTIONS

1. Where did Jesus go with His disciples after the Lord’s Supper and the High Priestly Prayer? _____
2. Whom did Jesus take with Him as He went to pray? _____
 What did He tell the rest of the disciples to do? _____
3. What did Jesus mean when He said, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death?” _____

4. What did Jesus pray? _____
5. What do you think Jesus meant by “this cup?” (see 2 Corinthians 5:2) _____
6. What did Jesus find when He returned to the disciples? _____
 What warning did He give them? _____
7. What was the most important part of the prayer which Jesus prayed? _____
8. Prayer is to be used by us to bring us into submission to God’s will. How do we know God’s will for us today? _____
9. What words of Jesus show that we dare not trust in our own good intentions or in our own strength or we will fall (vs. 41)? _____
10. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What does the Apostle Paul mean by saying, “When I am weak, then I am strong?” _____

11. How did Jesus know that it was not time for His arrest and death? _____

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

Was Jesus really sorrowful? Since He was true God did He really suffer like this? Since He was God, why did He have to pray for strength?