

Mark



Lesson 18-The Trial with Pilate and the Beating of Christ

Focus: Mark 15:1-23

1. **First thing in the morning** (Friday morning) **the “chief priests” met with the Sanhedrin** (the highest Jewish leadership) **and then delivered Jesus in the hands of Pilate** (the local Roman governor) **(v.1-5)**
 - a. *As these men made many accusations against Jesus, He never spoke a word back to them; Nothing to defend himself, or to condemn them. Pilate was absolutely amazed!! **Eight hundred years earlier the prophet Isaiah had written of this very event when the Messiah would be brought to trial.** Isaiah prophesied that the true Messiah would go silently without saying a word to his accusers (**Isaiah 53:6-8**).*
2. **At the Passover feast, Pilate** (the Roman governor) **had a custom of releasing one prisoner from the jail to the people—He asked if they wanted Jesus (v.6-14)**
 - a. (v.7-9) Pilate gave them a choice between Barabbas, a known criminal, and Jesus (who he knew was innocent). *Barabbas had been guilty of an uprising against the government and also murder (from during that event). The chief priests had accused Jesus of the very same crime (an uprising against the government) (See John 19:12,13), even though Jesus was known to be innocent. **The actual sinner was set free from prison while the innocent Lamb of God was condemned to die as a common criminal.** Isn't that what Jesus came to do for you and me? Jesus came to take our sins and to die in our place so that we might be set free from death, and forgiven for our sins (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18).*
 - b. (v.10,11,15) **Pilate had a weak and vacillating character when it came to politics and justice. He was a people pleaser. Pilate knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong.** He knew that Jesus was delivered to him because the chief priests envied Jesus. Yet, he desired to please the multitudes. He wanted to make the crowds happy rather than to actually serve Justice! He tried to make opportunities to release Jesus. He even sought to beat Jesus (though innocent) and then set him free if the people would settle for that.
 - c. (v.11) **The people were stirred up by the “chief priests” to yell “crucify him,” and to ask for Barabbas, the criminal to be set free.** They were moved by their religious leaders rather than by a sense of true justice. Today, we must ask ourselves the same question they should have asked themselves. **Are you going to let the “chief priests” move you OR will you let the word of God (and His Spirit) move you?** (Some people are just following whatever the most popular pastors **or** their favorite pastors are saying. They obey these priests instead of following the word of Jesus, and using their own conscientious judgment. If we had done that in the days of Jesus we would have been crucifying Jesus).
 - d. (v.14) **When questioned about their reason for this punishment to Jesus, they had NO REASON TO GIVE!!!** They only “cried out” even louder (and more). Instead of giving some valid reason, which they did not actually have, they just felt that a lot of noise and complaint would put an end to Jesus and satisfy their religious leaders. **This was an entirely false accusation towards Jesus!** It was based on pride, jealousy, envy, and selfish gain. It had NOTHING to do with justice! **The religious leaders of the day HATED Jesus’ straight message**

of Bible truth. Therefore, they delivered him to an unjust death in order to silence Him. They committed the crime of murder—but not just to anyone, to the Son of God himself!! Pilate tried to plead with the people, but they would not listen! (as they had also ignored the Holy Spirit).

- e. *In the very last days, a similar scene to this condemnation of Jesus will take place. The false religious leaders of the world (under a system prophetically called “Babylon” and her daughters) will unite with the political leaders of the world (Revelation 17:1-5; 13:11-18). These unjust religious leaders will stir up the people and the “uninterested” government leaders against the people of God who “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus (Revelation 14:12). They will envy and hate God’s true messengers in the last days who rebuke their hypocrisy and disobedient ways. **The governments of the world** while aiming to “please” the masses of people will sacrifice the principles of justice and enact unfair laws, thus condemning God’s true followers to death. The multitudes of people will be stirred up by their religious leaders against God’s faithful people. **Jesus said we could expect this (See Matthew 10:25; John 15:20).** The true religion of Christ will NOT be popular!! **Here the people swayed the government from its justice** (and this will surely happen again)! By the grace of God and the true faith of Jesus Christ let us be prepared for these events which are coming upon us. We must remember to seek God in prayer, study of His word, and sharing of His saving love with others always!*
3. **The leaders and the people mocked and abused Jesus, as soon as Pilate, sacrificing true principles of justice, handed Him over to them (v.15-23).**
- a. *Inspired by Satan, they subjected Jesus to every type of mockery and insult. Then they led him away to be crucified. As Jesus was becoming very thirsty, all they offered him was a type of wine or vinegar (which He would not drink) (v.23). **The world gave and offered their bitter cup of evil to Jesus as a drink.** While the Son of God, on the other hand, had been offering “the water of life” to mankind (John 4:10,13,14; Revelation 22:17). Jesus sought to bring “peace” and “goodwill” to men (Luke 2:14). Jesus did not receive their evil offer. Christ, the one who said “love your enemies” and “if your enemy is thirsty, give him something to drink,” was now treated with the most bitter of hatred. But all Jesus said of these people was, “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). Truly, “the world was not worthy” of Him (Hebrews 11:38).*
 - b. *Pilate said he had “washed his hands” of this crime (Matthew 27:24), but truly, he was held guilty along with the rest of those there who condemned Jesus Christ on that day. And let us never forget either that we, as sinful people, are also guilty for putting Jesus on the cross. It was for our sins that Jesus went to the cross.*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Would you like to be a faithful member of God’s family?_____ (Trusting in and always following Jesus faithfully, no matter what the crowd chooses to do).