

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

46) The Just For The Unjust

'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"

(John 19:1-11)

- ✓ **Scourging often accompanied crucifixion**
- ✓ **The soldiers mocked Him**
- ✓ **Pilate sought to appeal to the sympathy of the crowd, but they called out for His death**
- ✓ **He made 5 attempts to release Jesus. Seven times he acquitted Him**
- ✓ **He told them to crucify Him themselves because he found no fault in Him. They replied that according to their law He should be crucified because He claimed to be the Son of God**
- ✓ **When Pilate heard this he was afraid**

- ✓ **He asked who Jesus was. But Jesus didn't reply**
- ✓ *'And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth'* (**Isa.53:7**)
- ✓ **Pilate told him of the power he had over Him**
- ✓ **Jesus replied that he would not have that power unless it was given to him by God.** *'Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death'* (**Acts 2:23**). *'For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done'* (**Acts 4:27-28**)

**Seven times during the judgment of Jesus His
innocence was stated:**

□ **1) Judas:** *'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood' (Matt.27:4)*

2) Pilate: *'I find no fault in him' (John 19:4)*

3) Herod: *'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' (Luke 23:14-15)*

4) Pilate's wife: *'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"' (Matt.27:19)*

5) The thief on the Cross: *'...we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong'* **(Luke 23:41)**

6) The Roman centurion: *'So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!"'* **(Luke 23:47)**

7) The other soldiers at the cross: *'So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"'* **(Matt.27:54)**

'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. Then they took Jesus and led Him away. And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center'

(John 19:12-18)

- ✓ **'Away with Him' ... 'We have no king but Caesar'**
- ✓ **If Pilate released Jesus, he could be reported. This would end his career and possibly even his life**
- ✓ **They chose Caesar, who they hated, and Barabbas a robber, and rejected Jesus the spotless, sinless Saviour and the Son of God**
- ✓ **Pilate finally caved in. He said, '*I find no guilt in Him*' yet handed Him over to be crucified**
- ✓ **And so the moment for which the redemption of the whole world awaited had now arrived**

- ✓ **Jesus carried His cross from the place of sentencing to the place of crucifixion**
- ✓ **Before the Romans put a man on a cross, they put the cross on the man, forcing him to carry it in a public procession intended to draw attention to the condemned, his crime, and his fate**
- ✓ **The Persians invented crucifixion but the Romans perfected it. Crucifixion was designed to make the victim die publicly, slowly, with great pain and humiliation**
- ✓ ***'And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross'***
(Phil.2:8)

- ✓ **Two others were crucified with Him. He was crucified with the worst of society. But these were the very people He came to save**
- ✓ **The whole of humanity was represented there: the sinless Saviour, the saved penitent, the condemned impenitent. Jesus was centered between the believing and the rejecting**
- ✓ **At first both mocked Him; but then there was a change in one of the criminals. In fact the last human voice testifying to Jesus was a criminal converted just before his death**

'Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews." ' " Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots." Therefore the soldiers did these things'

(John 19:19-24)

- ✓ **Pilate wanted to insult the Jews who pressured him to do their bidding. So the placard basically said, 'Rome has crucified the king of the Jews as a common criminal'**
- ✓ **They tried to get him to change this to say 'He claimed to be the King of the Jews'. But Pilate wouldn't back down. Ironically, he was stubborn about things that don't matter, and weak concerning things that do matter**
- ✓ **Jesus was stripped of His clothing before He was nailed to the cross exposing Him to shame, humiliation and the heat of the sun**

- ✓ **There were 5 pieces of garments belonging to Jesus - headgear, sandals, belt, outer garment and the seamless tunic**
- ✓ **The soldiers each had one piece and gambled for these, and then for the seamless tunic, as it would have no value if torn, *'They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots'* (Psa.22:18)**
- ✓ **Jesus came all the way down the ladder to accomplish our salvation. He let go of everything – even His last bit of clothing. *'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich'* (2 Cor.8:9)**

Here is the Gospel:

'Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God'

(1 Pet.3:18)

- ✓ **The just for the unjust**
- ✓ **He was scourged, that we might go free**
- ✓ **He was crowned with thorns, that we might be crowned with blessing, honour and glory**
- ✓ **He was clothed with a robe of contempt, that we might receive the robe of righteousness**
- ✓ **He was rejected as king, that we might be made kings and priests unto God**
- ✓ **He became poor that we, through His poverty, might become rich**