

John 19:1 – 37

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~ The religious rulers initiated the trial of the Lord Jesus in our last report from our Spiritual Safari. They first brought Him before the former high priest, Annas; but we have no record of that interaction at all. Annas was ruler over the most depraved of filthy satanic hypocritical men ever to roam the earth. My estimation is that Annas planned the entire façade of prosecution and execution of Jesus at least several months before the time in which we are studying. Then, in an attempt to make it appear legitimate, they brought Jesus before Caiaphas the high priest, where the judicial process was made into a complete mockery of the Mosaic System of Levitical Law. Of course, Rome was the only authority that could actually carry out a death sentence, so they dragged Jesus before Pilate. We saw Pilate come out to the judgment hall and listen to the case against Him; and Pilate immediately wanted “off the hook” of this religious argument. Pilate really wasn’t a very brilliant man, and he couldn’t quite fathom all the things that were going on in that moment. We saw Pilate take Jesus inside to ask Him about this Kingship business; and that’s when Jesus explained to Pilate how His Kingdom was not of this world.

The Kingdom of God will be established on the earth someday, but it doesn’t come into existence the way worldly kingdoms rise to power. That is, God doesn’t establish His Kingdom through wars and political maneuvering – all of which take place in the sinful hearts of men. That is how the Lord’s return and establishment of His Kingdom will be altogether different from anything else the world has ever witnessed. Well, in his frustration Pilate asked Jesus, “.... what is truth?” So, Pilate took Jesus back outside and declared he had examined Jesus and found nothing worthy of death. We saw them observe a custom of releasing a prisoner on the Passover, but they didn’t want Jesus to be the one released. Pilate could not believe his ears when these people demanded Barabbas be released and Jesus be crucified.

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Pilate is now truly frightened by what's happening; and it's obvious he wants to avoid deciding this case. Well, the tables are turned, and Pilate is on trial - not Jesus. Pilate was assured of the innocency of the Lord Jesus – that acknowledgement is documented seven times for us. Pilate repeated several times that he found no fault in Jesus and was certainly willing to release Him according to Luke chapter twenty-three. We also see in this chapter that Pilate sought to release Jesus. Over in Acts we are told Pilate was determined to let Jesus go free. Pilate was also urged by his own wife not to get involved in this bogus death sentence. There was a very definite attempt to facilitate the acquittal of Jesus as Pilate urged the Jews to judge Jesus themselves. Jesus was sent to Herod and returned back to Pilate. Well, in spite of all of that, the sentence was given by Pilate that Jesus should be crucified....

1 Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.

~ Friends, if Jesus was innocent then He should have been turned loose at this point. Beating Jesus was an abortion of justice. There's no middle ground that could have been argued. This is entirely unlawful and wrong. See, old man Pilate thought a little violence would placate the Jews; I'm sure it had before. If you are a genuine child of God and you had looked upon Jesus after this scourging, it would have broken your heart. Isaiah tells us He was beaten beyond recognition. This is where that prophecy was fulfilled. If you received a death sentence in ancient Rome, the soldiers would have had some fun with you before you were crucified – fun for them, anyways. That's exactly what they did with Jesus....

2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe,

3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.

4 Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.

5 Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!

~ Saying you find no fault in the man you just had beat half to death is a tad disingenuous, friends. Jesus is already on the verge of death at this time. Pilate said, "... behold the Man" – what Pilate should have said is, "... behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." Well, either way, Jesus is now on His way to the cross to do just that. This is when Pilate called for the basin of water and washed his hands. Pilate thought he "washed his hands" of this situation; but, my friends, the Scriptural record – and the oldest creed in the church today – says Jesus was crucified under Pontius Pilate....

6 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him.

7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

8 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;

9 And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer.

10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?

11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

~ The religious rulers may have had the greater sin, but that doesn't exonerate Pilate from responsibility. Even at this late hour, Pilate is trying to absolve himself. If there were any possible way for Pilate to escape pronouncing a death sentence, he was going to find it. Unfortunately for

Pilate, he was already guilty of this atrocity against the Lord. Well, the religious rulers just said a moment ago that Jesus should die because He had said of Himself that He was the Son of God. Here, they say Pilate cannot let Jesus go because He has made Himself a King against Caesar. These hypocrites of hate don't care what they have to say to get this crucifixion going – they just want it to happen so they can go eat.

They're even threatening to report Pilate to Rome if he doesn't comply. This is serious business now. They are prepared to accuse Pilate of subversion and treason if he doesn't perform as their puppet. Naturally, Pilate wasn't about to let that happen, or Pilate would have gone up on a cross, too. Jesus is in the hands of a common, every day, run-of-the-mill politician. This is the awful result of government – or even a church – that falls into the hands of men who are hungry for power. These money-hungry, power-thirsty men are like the judge Jesus told us about who regarded neither God nor man. It's always an extremely dangerous situation. What a picture that should develop in our minds in this section of Scripture....

12 And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.

13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.

14 And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

~ Pilate has taken Jesus in and out of that place so many times we can't even keep up with him. Well, this is where Jesus is delivered into the hands of sinful man – both religious and political. We're seeing now exactly what the death of Christ meant to the world. The death of Jesus can be viewed from several different perspectives. From the standpoint of God, the cross is propitiation – a mercy seat. Only God can extend mercy to you and me;

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and He can only do so by the death of Christ on the cross. Our Holy, righteous and Just God was satisfied, so He could reach down and save the sinner off the street. The very judgment Throne becomes our mercy seat as believers – and that’s a mercy we don’t deserve.

From the standpoint of the Lord Jesus Himself – He is the Savior – and He is a sacrifice. Jesus made Himself an offering to sin as an act of obedience. Paul tells us Jesus became “obedient unto death; even unto the death on the cross.” From our viewpoint as believers, this was a substitutionary death. Jesus took my place on that cross – and yours. Jesus was sinless and He suffered for the sinner; the just suffering for the unjust. From the standpoint of Satan, this was a triumph, although very short lived. It was a satanic triumph because now the heel of the woman’s seed is seen being bruised; but the defeat comes quickly because the head of the serpent will soon be crushed. Christ destroys the power of death; that is – the devil. From the world outside's perspective, the view is that this was nothing but a brutal, cold-blooded murder. That’s how most churches view it. John happens to be presenting this event as a murder, too, at this particular point. They killed the Prince of Life Whom God ordained, but the True and Living God raised Christ from the dead again on the third day according to Holy Writ....

15 But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.

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...Psalm 94:20 Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law? 21 They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood ~

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17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.

20 This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin.

~ Well, that's the entire crucifixion record according to John, friends. No gory details – no nailing, although they did nail Him to the cross – none of that Hollywood sensationally detailed nonsense. None of the Gospel writers record any of the blood and guts stuff that man has daydreamed up. Hebrew was the language of religion; Greek was the language of culture, philosophy and learning. Latin was the language of law and power. All three great sections of humanity are covered by this superscription; and when we put all four Gospel accounts side by side we get a complete title.

We know they led Jesus outside of the city to crucify Him. I think Gordon's Calvary is accurate, too, by the way. This fulfilled prophecy; but, more remarkably, this fulfills a tremendous type of sin offering. Remember, both the bullock and the goats were to be taken outside the camp to be slain! The Lord Jesus died for the sins of all of those men there that have now handed in this unjust decision against Him. I always wondered if they even had an inkling of an idea they might be fulfilling prophecy. Well, they were....

21 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews.

22 Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

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23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

24 They said therefore among themselves; Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!

27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced ~

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