

## John Ch 19:1-16

“Behold The Man!”

Ch 18 deals specifically with Judas’ betrayal, Peter’s denial, and Jesus’ trial. and The Ch breaks in a place that’s really inconvenient because Jesus is still on trial when Ch 19 begins, there’s no change in the subject at hand when Ch 18 ends and Ch 19 begins. Jesus has been questioned by Annas, interrogated by Caiaphas, and probed by Pilate; both Jew and Gentile have examined Him (the Lamb of God preparing to be slain for the sin of the world). and The conclusion as heralded by Pilate, “*I find no fault in Him at all.*” John 18:38 Peter tells us, “... *you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*” 1 Peter 1:18-19 and Ch 18 ends with Pilate in a certain quandary whereby he wants to release Jesus, but he’s allowing the pressure of the people to persuade him otherwise.

Perhaps you can relate, and I think to a degree we can all relate regarding various times in our lives when we maybe should’ve gone a certain direction, but we buckled under the pressure of a certain person or people and went the other. But what a tragedy when that decision has to do with my personal persuasion towards Jesus Christ Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent, knew that Jesus should’ve been released, knew that it would be the good thing to do, yet he chose to go against the grain of what was right. The bible says, “...*to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.*” James 4:17

Even though Pilate kept trying to manipulate the circumstances so as to free Jesus, ultimately he chose to do what was wrong to insure his own political position and security. But that’s where we left off, with Pilate trying to place Jesus beside Barabbas. Thinking that surely in placing Jesus beside a known insurrectionist, murderer and thief, in honoring the tradition of releasing one prisoner to them at Passover they’d surely choose Jesus. You recall that Barabbas means, “Son of the Father” and here he stands in sharp contrast to Jesus, the only begotten Son of the Heavenly Father. Barabbas *took* life, Jesus came to *give* life, Barabbas was a man of *rebellion*, Jesus was a man of *peace*, Barabbas was a *prisoner*, but Jesus came to set the captives *free*. and The people had a choice that day, take to themselves that which robbed, killed, and destroyed, or that which added to, gave life, and made whole.

As you well know they chose Barabbas, “Not this Man (in regards to Jesus), but Barabbas” they made their choice, invited destruction into their lives rather than healing. Condemnation rather than salvation, bondage rather than freedom, and people are still choosing Barabbas today, saying, “Not this Man, but \_\_\_\_\_” (fill in the blank) what is it that think you need in your life as opposed to Jesus Christ? Partying, pornography, power, the pursuit of riches, or some other aspect of this world, then in essence you take your place in this crowd saying, “Not this Man, not Jesus, give us something else.”

Matthew sheds a little more light on the conversation. When Pilate heard what they said he made a very interesting comment, he said, “*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!’ 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;*” Matt 27:22-26 Just for the record, Pilate wasn’t innocent of His blood, he made his choice; but did you catch the question? “What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” That’s another one of those questions that confronts us all. What am I going to do with Jesus who is called Christ?

What are you going to do with Jesus who is called Christ? It’s absolutely unavoidable; we have a choice to make, to receive Him or to reject Him. Now what we decide has no bearing on Him whatsoever, regardless of what Pilate would’ve decided it wouldn’t have affected Jesus one bit, He was going to go to the cross for the sin of the world. But it would’ve radically impacted Pilate, Jesus is who Jesus is whether we believe it or not, our decision isn’t a judgment upon Him; it’s a judgment upon ourselves. As much as Pilate thinks he’s judging Jesus, in reality he’s judging himself by the choice he makes, and so to with us all. Our choice regarding Jesus doesn’t change *His* fate; it makes for *ours*.

Vs1-3

Now Pilate has already declared Jesus to be innocent once, so for all intents and purposes the trial should’ve been over. So now to have Jesus scourged was a radical injustice. Maybe he thought it would somehow be enough, perhaps satisfy their hostility. and John doesn’t go into the details of what took place in a scourging because in that day it was common knowledge. and Even with us who’ve known the Lord for a while we’ve heard it so much that we can become desensitized to it, but let me encourage you to try and guard against that. Not because I want you to be an emotional wreck over what the Lord endured for you and for me, but because, “*God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*” Rom 5:8 Jesus said, “*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.*” John 15:13 The love of God is demonstrated towards you and towards me in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ Jesus loves you so much, that He allowed Himself to be beaten, bruised, afflicted, ultimately dying for you and for me. God help us not to become desensitized to that. Pilate took Jesus and had Him scourged.

The scourging was the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, they would take what was called the flagellum which was basically a sort of a whip with multiple leather strips embedded with lead, shards of bone and/or various pieces of metal. and They would take the prisoner and tie his hands to a pole of some sort and stretch him out or bend him over so that the skin on his back was tight. and The purpose of the scourging was generally 3-fold, #1 it was simply a form of punishment, #2 they would use it to extract information, and #3 it would expedite the process of death of the crucifixion.

Typically the sentence would be 39 lashes, 40 was the # of judgment and they'd temper it with mercy making it 39. and As I said the whole idea was to gather information, or extract confessions of any crime or crimes that one may've committed. There would generally be 2 soldiers trading lashes so as not to wear out, and the process would work something like this: as you would confess your crimes, the lashes would get lighter and lighter, if you confessed nothing, the lashes would get harder, and harder.

Now you see the conflict, Jesus had nothing to confess, there was no fault in Him. He couldn't even say, "I took a pencil when I was 3!" Or, "I used to pick on my brothers and sisters when I was a kid!" Nothing, He'd done nothing, and so you begin to understand that with each stripe that was laid on Him, the degree with which He was lashed was with greater and greater intensity. and When you have various strips of leather, embedded with lead, bone, and metal, tearing into your flesh with each blow as your back is stretched tight, by the time it's over, there's nothing left. Exposed entrails, bones and hamburger meat at best, the whip would wrap around the rib cage, tearing at the stomach and chest as well, if it wrapped up and hit your face that was too bad so sad, I doubt that they were too particular with where their flogging landed.

I read this comment regarding the scourging, "As the Roman soldiers repeatedly struck the victim's back with full force, the iron balls would cause deep contusions, and the leather thongs and sheep bones would cut into the skin and subcutaneous tissues. Then, as the flogging continued, the lacerations would tear into the underlying skeletal muscles and produce quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh. Pain and blood loss generally set the stage for circulatory shock." (Edwards) and It was not at all uncommon for the individual to die right there at the whipping post due to shock and the overwhelming loss of blood.

But Jesus bore it all, now the question comes up, in as much as this was all apart of God's plan, these stripes being laid upon Him were apart of God's predetermined plan. Isaiah Ch 53 speaks of the stripes that would be laid upon Him, God not only knew it would happen, but *planned* it so. Peter told the people in Acts Ch 2 "*Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.*" Acts 2:23 Jesus was delivered up according to the *determinate* counsel and *foreknowledge* of God, not only was the cross apart of God's plan, but this horrendous act of scourging was as well, why? What's the significance of this to you and to me? Going back to Isaiah, "*But 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.*" Isa 53:5 Peter picked up on this and quoted it again in 1 Pet ch 2, Jesus was there making provision for our healing, as He was being broken open, it was so that we might be mended, made whole.

The bible makes clear that the healing that's found for us in Jesus goes beyond the spiritual healing that we all either are, or at one time were in such desperate need of. There *is* physical healing found in the broken body of Jesus Christ. You say, "How is that possible?" I don't know, I can't tell you how His stripes bring healing to your body, any more than I can tell you how His sacrifice upon the cross brings salvation to your soul. I'm just telling you what the bible teaches, and I believe it because the Word of God is sure. Heaven and earth will pass away, His Word will never pass away, and if the Word of God says it, then by faith we're to receive it. God never asked us to understand all of His Word, just to *believe* all of His Word. Does that mean that every ill person, or person that falls sick is suffering from a lack of faith? Not at all, the bible teaches emphatically the opposite, we serve a sovereign God upon whom we cast our cares because He cares for us. But the gracious gift of God's healing to our lives was released in the broken body of Jesus Christ.

Matthew wrote and said, "*When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.'*" Matt 8:16-17 There are times that we're to endure our physical afflictions, but there are other times whereby the Lord will sovereignly intervene and bring healing to your body as you pray, or perhaps one prays over you, it's by His stripes that we are healed. Well, they scourged Him, beat Him further, placed a crown of thorns on His head, placed a purple robe around His broken and bleeding body making a further mockery of Him.

Vs4-6

That's because there was no fault in Him; Heb 4:15, "*For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*" Heb 4:15 and Again, "*For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;*" Heb 7:26 Paul told the Corinthians, "*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*" 2 Cor 5:21 John wrote, "*And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.*" 1 John 3:5 This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time Pilate declares His innocence.

In Vs 5 Pilate brings Him out before the people, beaten beyond recognition, torn, crown of thorns beaten down on His head, and a purple robe wrapped around His bloodied body, and he says to them, "Behold the Man!" Was he saying it so as to mock Him? So as to invoke pity from the people as in, "He's had enough spare His life!" There's no way to know with certainty, it would seem as though possibly he was still trying to get them to show some kind of mercy because they immediately chime back in regarding their insatiable desire for His death. Pilate says, "If you want Him crucified do it yourself, I find no fault in Him."

Vs7

So far from being moved with pity they were all the more incensed. But this just shows how the heart of the natural man is moved with animosity and hatred towards the holiness and righteousness of God. There's a certain view of atonement called, "The moral influence theory." and The basic gist of it states that when sinful man realizes the suffering that the Lord endured for us that he'll turn from his sin, and love the Lord. But that's subjective and really has nothing to do with the holiness of God, or satisfying divine justice. We aren't saved by feeling pity for Jesus; we're saved by repenting of our sin and trusting in Him as our sinless substitute who paid the price for the sins of the world.

But here in vs 7 the truth of the matter comes out, this is the fact of why they've delivered Him up, because He made Himself to be the Son of God. Actually He didn't *make* Himself anything; He *was* the Son of God. Every now and then you'll run across someone who'll take the position that Jesus never claimed deity, never said He was God, these guys didn't see it that way. That's the very reason they want to kill Him, they consider His claim to be blasphemy, and it would've been if it weren't true. But Jesus never sought to conceal His identity. Remember when they were all, "If You're the Christ tell us plainly," and Jesus said, "I told you and didn't believe Me, and not only that My works bear witness of Me as well. But you don't believe Me because you're not My sheep, My sheep hear My voice, and they follow Me, and I give them eternal life."

He spoke of our security in Him, how no one can snatch us out of His hand, or His Father's hand, and He said, "I and My Father are one." and We read, "*Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, 'Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?' The Jews answered Him, saying, 'For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.'*" John 10:31-33 They knew exactly what He was saying; Jesus didn't make a secret of it. Now that in and of itself forces you and me to make a choice, because Jesus is either who He said He is, or He's a liar and a lunatic, and if He lied about that, who's to say He didn't lie about everything else? There's none of this, "He was a good moral teacher" business. We either take our bibles and throw them in the trash because Jesus was a liar, or we get on our faces in our heart and exalt Him as Lord, now as for me I'm for option B.

Jesus is our *Lord* and He is our *God*, as much as God the Father is God, Jesus Christ is God the Son, there is no less deity in Him than there is in the Father, they're completely equal in every way. So when people question the deity of Christ, take them here, His contemporaries were real clear on the understanding of who He claimed to be. So we either reject it, or we receive it, I've chosen receive, I know that most all of you have to, and I pray that everyone here *is*, or *will be* before we leave in that same position.

## Vs8-9

Pilate wasn't asking what city He was from; he was beginning to wonder who exactly he had on his hands. But Jesus didn't say a word, just sat there in silence. As the bible says, "*He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.*" Isa 53:7 Jesus had already told him once, remember vs 36-37 of ch 18. He told Pilate who He was, why He was born, and why He came to this earth, but Pilate didn't receive it, there's nothing more to say. As I said last week, Jesus would take the time to speak to an honest skeptic, answer questions, satisfy curiosities, but to the one who only had a point to prove or position to defend, someone who had no desire to know the truth, there's no need to engage. Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?" and Then walked off, he didn't want to know. and If you're not willing to respond to truth that God has already revealed to you, then why would He give you more?

## Vs10-11

I love this vs, Pilate is all up in His face about the power that *he* wields, the authority that *he* has. That invokes a response from the Lord, "You don't have *any* authority at all Pilate, but that it isn't given to you from above," that is, from God the Father. The bible is clear that any authority is in authority because God has allowed it to be there to ultimately fulfill His purpose. I'm not saying that every authority, be it government, bosses at work, local authorities, or even church order is always godly, but it is allowed *by* God.

Rom 13:1 says, "*Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*" Again that doesn't mean that they're necessarily godly, but Paul tells us that we're to pray for those in positions of authority. He told Timothy, "*I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*" 1 Tim 2:1-2 But here Jesus places Pilate in check regarding his "authority." It's been given to him *by* God and he'll be accountable for how he wields it *before* God. To whom much is given, much is required.

Last week we mentioned how sin is sin, and we have a tendency to categorize it, but it'll all separate you from God, we mentioned Gal 5, 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 6, but here Jesus emphasizes the, "To whom much is given, much is required" principle when He says, "The one who delivered Me to you has the *greater* sin." Pilate is pretty clueless as to who Jesus is, what's going on, now *what he's doing* in regards to Jesus *is* sin, but those who delivered Jesus *to* him. Whether it be Judas, or probably more specifically Caiaphas has been a student of scripture probably most of his life, has the light of God's Word to look into, be familiar with. and Even though he has the Word of God, that points clearly to the Son of God, still he delivered Jesus over to Pilate to condemn Him to death; Jesus says, "That's greater sin."

## Vs12

They pull the old, “Caesar” card. “Jesus says He’s a King, that puts Him at enmity against Caesar, now if you let Him go, you’re against Caesar to and we’ll make sure he knows it.”

## Vs13-15

Whoa! Who’s blaspheming now? The chief priest claiming no other king but Caesar! Again they made their choice, they didn’t want Jesus as their king, they’d rather have Barabbas, they’d rather have Caesar, anything, or anyone but Jesus. and When you reject Jesus as your King, the ruler who is *not* of this world, then by default you give your allegiance to the ruler of this world. They’re rejecting Jesus Christ Sad is the day when one makes a conscious decision to reject Jesus from being their King, again it doesn’t affect Jesus, but it radically impacts you, the difference in accepting and rejecting Jesus is eternal. Yet people seem to make that decision so flippantly, and take that decision so lightly, think it through, who would you have to rule over you, the things of this world? Jesus said, “...*what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.*” Mark 8:36-38 Now John tells us it was about the 6<sup>th</sup> hour, if he’s using Roman time that means around 6 a.m. now he wasn’t wearing his Rolex so it could’ve been 7 or so I suppose. Jesus was actually crucified at 9:00a.m. and at 3:00 in the afternoon He delivered up His Spirit. But with their ultimate rejection we read,

## Vs16

You’re free to reject Jesus, and send Him away, but what you do with Him now, only determines what He does with you later. Think it through, “Behold the Man!” Jesus laid down His life for you and for Me. and You can be forgiven of all your sin, by trusting in Him as your sinless substitute.

Isaiah 53 tells us that Jesus would be *beaten, bruised, and buried*, and we *behold* Him in that 3 fold manner right here in John 19. But that’s not the end; 3 days later Jesus would rise from the dead, so that if you would *believe* you’d receive everlasting life. Pilate said, “Behold the Man!” But He was so much more, Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, Pilate saw “The Man” J.B. saw “The Lamb” May we behold more than just “The Man” today as we prepare our hearts for communion, but may you see, may I see, “The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”

If God is dealing with your heart and you’re at a point where you’ve come into the realization that Jesus is more than just a man, but that He’s the Lamb of God, and He’s paid the price for your sin, and you want to get right with God and give your heart to Him, then today God is prepared to forgive your sin and make you brand new if you’ll just ask. If Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart, let me just encourage you to let Him in, He’ll clean up your life, forgive you of your sin, and make you white like snow. Eternal life is yours for the asking; just give Jesus your heart.