

Title: Who Killed Jesus?

Text: John 18:28-19:16

Would you take your Bibles, please, and turn with me to John chapter 18. There are notes in your bulletin and I would encourage you to use them as we study this passage. John chapter 18 beginning with Vs. 28. We are looking at the PASSION MINISTRY OF JESUS in preparing our hearts for RESURRECTION SUNDAY. Today I want to look at the trail of Jesus in answering the question: WHO KILLED JESUS?

John chapter 18 beginning with Vs. 28. Would you please stand for the reading of God's Word? (Read 18:28-19:16) (Prayer)

(3D) The trial of Jesus before Pilate takes place sometime in the early morning on the day of Passover. It is amazing to me that a crowd was gathered so early in the morning. The Gospel of Mark says that "early in the morning the chief priests with the elders and scribes and the whole council and a multitude of people" delivered Jesus up to Pilate.

Now, where did all these people come from? Well, I don't really know. The text doesn't say. But, I do believe it helps us to understand the hatred and the hostility the chief priest and elders of the land had put into the hearts of the people. The same people who had, just a few days earlier, laid the palm branches in front of Jesus and carried, "HOSANNA, BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD." How quickly the mood of the crowd changed. Now, they want to crucify Him.

(1E) O.K. First of all, let's look at the evidence behind this trail in verses 28-32. There are four things that I want to throw your way.

(1F) Number one: in verse 28, notice the refusal of the Jewish leaders to enter into that judgment hall. I have just one thing to say about that. Vs. 28, dear friends, is teaching religious hypocrisy. That is right! The Jews would not go into the judgment hall because the Gentiles had defiled it. THINK ABOUT THAT!

They were so concerned about the PASSOVER; yet, they were willing to cause the murder of Jesus. What hypocrisy exists in the lives of people? On the one hand seeming to be religious, and on the other hand, the depth of even murder.

Now, vs. 28 says that they might eat the PASSOVER. This means that they had not, yet, eaten the Passover meal. Many people teach that the meal that Jesus had with his disciples, called the last Supper, was the Passover meal. That is not true.

Now, it was part of the over all FEAST OF UNLEAVEN BREAD. But, the lamb was not eaten until the lamb was killed, obviously. In truth the Passover feast involved two meals. Remember the Jewish day starts at 6:00 in the evening and ends at 6:00 the following evening. And between the two meals the lamb was killed. So, the actual PASSOVER MEAL was the last of the two meals. It was eaten the second night after the lamb had been killed. And the lamb was killed early in the afternoon. Sometime around 3:00 p.m. our time.

And I find that very interesting, because Jesus died on the cross at 3:00 in the afternoon. He died at the exact time that Priest all over Jerusalem were sacrificing lambs to be used that night in the Passover meal. Jesus was the Lamb of God slain for our sins. He fulfilled in every detail the sacrificial system.

So, they had not eaten the Passover meal, which is clear from Vs. 28. But, it was the day of preparation of the Passover. The day in which the lambs were killed. And this Passover day is part of the over all Feast of Unleavened Bread.

(2F) Secondly, notice the reason given for the trial, in Vs. 29-30. Pilate said, "What accusation do you bring against this man"? They said, "if this man was not an evildoer, we would not have delivered him up to you." As though he had committed some crime.

When Pilate questioned Jesus, the Bible says, ~~as we will see next Sunday, the Bible says~~ that Pilate found no fault in him.'

There was nothing....no crime....that anyone would bring against Jesus.

Did you know that there were 7 different times when people in authority said, "I FIND NO FAULT IN JESUS?" 7 times....Let me share them with you.

1. Judas said in Matthew 17:4..."I have sinned and I have betrayed innocent blood."

2. Pilate said in John ~~18:4~~ <sup>18:38</sup> and ~~18:38~~ <sup>19:4</sup>..."I find no fault in Him."

3. Herod said in Luke 23:15..."Nothing worthy of death is done by Him."

4. Pilates wife said in Matthew 27:19..."Have nothing to do with this just man."

5. The dying thief in Luke 23:41 said,..."We have received the due reward for our deeds, but this man ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> done nothing."

6. The Roman Centurian in Luke 23:47 said, .."Certainly this man was innocent."

7. And those standing with Him according to Matthew 27:54 said, "Truly, this was the Son of God."

7 times people acknowledged the fact that there was no sin, there was no guilt, there was no crime, that Jesus had committed.

The Son of God standing before Pilate, the one who know no sin, and yet, they claimed He was an evildoer. And then they tried to cover up there false claim by excusing their actions. "IF HE WERE NOT AN EVILDOER WE WOULD NOT HAVE BROUGHT HIM TO YOU." *FANTASTIC*

(3~~6~~) Third, notice the hesitation of Pilate in Vs 31

He said, "take Him and judge Him according to your law." We know from history that Pilate was a puppet ruler. He was put there because he wanted the job *as a stepping stone to a higher position.* ~~And there was some money behind that deal.~~

As a result, Pilate was always afraid of what people thought of him. And he wanted nothing to do with anything that would cause him to be unpopular with the people. So, he said, "YOU TAKE HIM AND JUDGE HIM ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN LAW."

*Yehoshua*  
 The reason Pilate had so much trouble and the Romans had so much trouble in Palestine was because of the double standard of the law. The Jews still held to the Theocracy, the Priesthood. And the Romans permitted this to exist. And yet, they were there with their Roman laws. And this caused much of their problems. So, Pilate wanted nothing to do with them.

(4) Forth, notice how the Jews refused their responsibility. Vs 31-32

They knew that Jesus wasn't an evildoer. They couldn't even find any charge or crime against him.

So, in Vs 31-32, they said that it was unlawful for them to put <sup>anyone</sup> ~~any man~~ to death. And the Bible said that this fulfilled what Jesus said, "SIGNIFYING BY WHAT KIND OF DEATH HE WAS ABOUT TO DIE."

In other words, dear friends, the <sup>Romans</sup> ~~Gentiles~~ actually carried out the death according to the prediction of Jesus.....It is fantastic.....

Take your Bibles and turn with me to Matthew chapter 20. Matthew chapter 20 verse 17. Here Jesus predicted the way in which his death was to happen. [Matthew chapter 20 verse 17 says..]"And as Jesus was about to go up to Jerusalem, He took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and on the way He said to them, Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered up to the chief <sup>priest</sup> ~~priests~~ and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death."

Notice, carefully, the order....He was betrayed unto the chief priest. Not unto the Gentiles....not unto the Romans....But unto the chief priest. And that is just the way it happened. Judas betrayed Jesus unto the Chief Priest and the scribes. They condemned Him to death through false charges.

Now, look at Vs 19...."and will deliver Him up to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up."

And that is just what they did. ~~And that is what we are studying in~~ ~~Jan.~~ They delivered him to Pilate and the Romans. They would mock him.... they would scourge him....and they would crucify him. And that is just what happened.....

*max*  
But dear friends, don't miss that final prediction. Jesus, also, predicted that on the third day He would be raised up. PRAISE GOD † That, also, happened as we will see on Resurrection Sunday.

(26) Now, beginning with Vs 33 I would like you to notice the examination of Jesus by Pilate. Pilate is going to ask Jesus five questions in which he tries to find some way to justify crucifying him. But, he continues to say that he can find no fault in Jesus.

(17) The first question that Pilate asks Jesus, Vs 33 was: "ARE YOU THE KING OF THE JEWS?" And Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you this about me?"

You know, I get a personal joy out of understanding and trying to put myself into these answers of Jesus. Because Jesus answered Pilate in such a way that His answers exposed him.

And so Jesus said, "Listen, are you saying this on your own knowledge, or are you just repeating what others have said?" "You are asking me the question, am I the king of the Jews?"  
*The Point is -*  
You see, if Jesus was a king, it would be a personal threat to Pilate. Because only Caesar was King. And if Jesus had said He was a king, it would have been a threat to the authority of Rome. And then Pilate had cause to deal with Jesus under Roman law.

And so Jesus answered with a question: "Do you believe that I am a king, or did someone say that about me?"

(26) Now, Vs 35, we find the second question. Acturally it is a very strong reply to the question Jesus ask. ~~And Pilate says, I AM NOT A JEW, AM I?~~ <sup>Now</sup> Pilate is not just asking... "AM I A JEW?" He knew that he wasn't a Jew. He ask, "I AM NOT A JEW, AM I?!"

The point is: Pilate with sarcasm was saying, "WHY SHOULD THE QUESTION EVEN CONCERN ME?" [But the question did concern him. And the reason the question concerned him was because he was afraid that Jesus realy was the king of the Jews. And so with sarcasm he said, "I AM NOT A JEW SO WHY SHOULD I CARE OR EVEN ANSWER YOUR QUESTION."

(37) The third question, Vs 35, Pilate says, "YOUR OWN NATION AND THE CHIEF PRIESTS DELIVERED YOU UP TO ME: WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?"

The question suggest that there was some specific crime. Because the Jews had already said that Jesus was an evildoer. <sup>That</sup> He was one who was practicing evil. Alright, then, name your crime.

*Dear Friends*

Isn't it interesting that Jesus in ~~answering~~ this question ~~about~~ changes the subject. Vs 36..."Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My Kingdom is not of this realm."

You see, <sup>Jesus</sup> he had done nothing to them. And if He had, then His followers would be fighting. THAT IS THE WHOLE POINT. And that is what bothered Pilate, Jesus, like the Bible predicts in Isa. 53, was led like a lamb to the slaughter. He volunterrily gave himself up. [If His kingdom were of this world, then His servants would be fighting to free him. And he would not have been delivered over to be crucified. [In other words, Jesus and His followers had nothing to do with earthly and worldly causes. And I think that sometimes we get all tied up in those causes, failing to remember that our kingdom is not of ~~this~~ world. The purposes of Jesus were much higher. And he had no reason to fight.

ant

In 2 Cor chapter 10, Paul wrote that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal. They are spiritual.

But, I want you to examine the last phrase of Vs 36 where Jesus said: "but AS IT IS, MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS REALM."

ml

If we are translating that in understanding Christ's kingdom, I think you would say something like this: but now in this dispensation my kingdom is not from here. But later it will be because the time will come when christ will set up his kingdom on earth. When is ~~he~~ going to do that? ~~in the future.~~ His 1000 year reign on earth. But in this age, in this dispensation of time, he would not set up his kigdom on the earth. It would not be ~~here.~~ <sup>Now</sup> So, Pilate, you have nothing to worry about. My kingdom is not ~~of this~~ <sup>of this</sup> world. At least, not now. ~~And that is the reason why he used the time word "NOW". Not "now" is my kingdom here, but it is going to be someday.....~~ *praise to God*

(4F) Question four, Pilate still wasn't satisfied, vs 37. He didn't ask him this time if he was the king of the Jews. He simple said: **ARE YOU A KING?**

"I want to know that. It is a threat to me, personally. Are you a King?" And Jesus said to him, "you say ~~correctly~~ <sup>CORRECTLY</sup> that I am a king." He isn't saying, "yes, I am." He simple says, "you say that I am a king." *But He then says*

In *OR* word

"For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice."

Where ever the king is, there is the kingdom, *Jesus Christ*, once said, "the kingdom of God is in you." Literally, in the midst of you. Namely, I am here. Where ever the king is, that is where the kingdom is.

~~But~~ the king is going to come and set up his kingdom. When Christ said "for this I have been born; and for this I came into the world" he means that the only way a kingdom can be set up is through the personal ministry of the king.



Think of the story of Nicodemus. When Nicodemus came to Jesus in John 3. Jesus said to him: "except a man be born again he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

If ~~Christ~~<sup>Jesus</sup> had not come into the world, the first time, and had <sup>NOT</sup> died and paid for our sins, no one would ever see the kingdom of God. You must be born again to enter into that kingdom. Or, no one would be a part of that future coming kingdom. His kingdom is not of the world.

In John 1:12-13, "but as many as received him, to then he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name; who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

You must be born of God. His kingdom is not of this world. It is of God.

(5D) Question number 5. Pilate wasn't satisfied with his answer which indicated his own authority that everyone who is of the truth will hear <sup>my</sup> voice, <sup>ask</sup> PILATE SAID, WHAT IS TRUTH?

You can interpret that in one of two ways.....

Was Pilate making an honest statement by asking, "tell<sup>me</sup> what the truth is?" ...NO, I DON'T THINK SO...

As was indicated by his actions. When ~~he said~~<sup>he ask</sup> this, he went out again to the Jews." He didn't stay around for ~~Jesus~~<sup>Jesus</sup> to answer the question. He left. <sup>so</sup> His question was not an honest question. But was characteristic of his time.

For a moment, just reflect on what the times were like and what the philosophies of the world were like. The Greek philosophers taught that truth was not absolute. It was relative...That there was no way of knowing the truth....Sounds Like Today

Think of how often ~~Christ~~<sup>Jesus</sup> referred to ~~that~~<sup>The Truth as being an absolute</sup> I am the truth. No man cometh unto the Father but by me. Sanctify them by thy truth. Thy word is truth. The Spirit of truth will guide you into all the truth.

The Greek world did not believe that truth was absolute. It was relative.



And so Pilate, again, says with sarcasm: WHAT IS TRUTH? As though it was not possible to know the truth. Yet, Jesus said, "IF YOU HEAR ME, YOU ARE OF THE TRUTH." "I BEAR WITNESS TO THE TRUTH."

And so Pilate goes out to the crowd and says, "I find no fault in Him." There was nothing....no crime....nothing that he could bring against Jesus.

(3) This brings us to Vs 39 and the expediency of Pilate.

No man in history is so guilty as Pilate was guilty. And I want you to see the expediency of Pilate in ~~several~~ <sup>three</sup> ways.

(1) ~~One~~ <sup>First</sup>, in punishing Jesus....Vs 39 through Vs 5 of chapter 19.

This section is very descriptive if you understand the words. The Bible tells us in Vs 1 that Pilate "SCOURGED JESUS". And the soldiers put a crown of thorns on His head and put a purple robe on him. And Vs 3 says that they hit him in the face with their hands.

Now, that is what we learn from the Gospel of John.

But, I would like you to look at the account in one other Gospel. Turn to the Gospel of Mark. Mark chapter 15...

And as we read this, please remember that this whole thing was predicted by Jesus. He told His disciples that it would happen. And Pilate for expediency was allowing it to happen. In other words, Pilate thought by punishing Jesus and then showing Him to the crowd that that would be enough.

Mark chapter 15 verse 15 and 16..... *Further detail: We read*

"And wishing to satisfy the multitude, Pilate released Barabbas for them, and after having Jesus scourged, he delivered Him over to be crucified. And the soldiers took Him away into the palace, and they called together the whole Roman cohort."

Do you remember what we learned a couple of weeks ago? A "cohort" is one tenth of a legion. There are six thousand soldiers in a Roman legion. So, a cohort is one tenth of a legion, or 600 Soldiers. And all of these soldiers were around Jesus having fun and mocking him....

Mark 15

Vs 17....."And they dressed Him up in purple, and after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on Him; and they began to acclaim Him, 'HAIL, KING OF THE JEW!' And they kept beating His head with a reed, and spitting at Him, and kneeling and bowing before him." "And after they had mocked him, they took the purple off Him, and put His garments on Him. And they led Him out to crucify Him."

When Vs 19 says that they "kept beating His Head", that phrase is in a tense in Greek meaning that they continued to do it and ~~didn't~~ stop.

SOFTLY

Dear friends, if you have in your mind the idea that a few soldiers merely hit Jesus a few times and let it go at that, you are mistaken. The text says that they continued to spit on him...they continued to beat him.

History tells us that a Roman beating would leave the face of the victim mared beyond recognition.

So often, when we see a picture of Jesus on the cross, we can still recognize Him. Maybe there is a little blood coming down from the crown of thorns. Oh, listen, dear people, that is not the picture *at all*.

They mared Him beyond recognition. And they beat him. And they spite upon him...And they not only beat him with their fist, but they also used a rod. [This one in whom Pilate said, "I FIND NO FAULT."

Have you ever seen a crown of thrones? We have many examples of thrones, ~~but~~ But, I am told that the thrones in Palestine measure 4 to 5 inches in length. And they do not break like tooth picks. They are almost like nails .

And I have often ask myself: WHAT MUST HAVE IT FELT LIKE TO HAVE A CROWN OF THRONES, 4-5 INCHES, hard as nails, crushed down upon one's head?

SOFTLY

Jesus...beaten beyond recognition, scoraged by the Romans...his back bleeding from the flesh that was ripped off....NOW..having a crown of thrones crushed down upon his head. Oh, how little we understand what Jesus went through for your sins and mine.

And in back of this whole ~~since~~ <sup>is</sup> LOVE. He loved us. I hope that you and I, as believers, will never get over the fact of what Jesus went through for us.

What will we cry in heaven ~~as~~ <sup>all</sup> the believers are gathered around the Son of God in that great heavenly throne room? The Bible says we are going to fall down and worship Him and sing: "WORTHY IS THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN."

Oh, think of what it will be like to talk with our blessed Lord. As he will show us the wounds of His hands and His feet and in His side. And He will tell us of what happened. We have much here in the Word. But, I am afraid that much of it is not communicated to us. We have a hard time understanding. And I don't know about you, but sometimes I am overcome by emotion in just realizing what Jesus has done for us out-of-love....

It was our sins that nailed Jesus on the cross. It wasn't just the Romans...it wasn't just Pilate....it wasn't just the Jewish people....it was MY SINS...YOUR SINS...that nailed Jesus to that cross. And He did it because He loved me...He loved you...

And this crown of thrones struck a note with me. The crown of thrones is a symbol of the <sup>and Full Bible</sup> cruse that was on the world. The Bible says in Gen 3 that God <sup>crused</sup> the ground with thrones. And I thought: "WHAT A TREMENDOUS REMAINDER." A symbol of the cruse that was on the whole world was placed on the head of Jesus. He became a cruse for us says Galatians 3:13-14.....

*How wonderful is the Word of God - Praise God.....*

~~O.K. let's come back to the Gospel of John and~~ <sup>19</sup> The expediency of Pilate. Pilate allowed all of this to happen. Thinking that this would be enough. So, imagine his surprise when he brought Jesus to the people and said to them in Vs 5...."BEHOLD, THE MAN!"

Hay folks! Isn't this enough....Isn't this all you want?.....

(2) <sup>secondly</sup> Then, we notice the expediency of Pilate, again, as he presents Jesus to the chief priest and the officers in Vs 5 and 7.

The chief priest cried out, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him."

And Pilate said, "you take Him and crucify Him, for I find no <sup>Fault</sup> ~~guilt~~ in Him."

Why would he even say that? Pilate had the authority to let Him go. Why would he let them crucify Him?

Vs 7.."The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out to be the Son of God.'

(3) So, third, I see the expediency of Pilate in purposing to release Jesus.

Pilate was scared to death says the Bible. Vs 8..."When Pilate therefore heard this statement, he was the more afraid."

The other Gospels emphases it all the more. Pilate was afraid. What if this one is the Son of God? The same one that he just allowed to be beaten. The same one in whom he continues to find no fault in..

Someone has suggested that Pilate is spending eternity in Hell trying to wash the blood from his hands. "I FIND NO FAULT IN HIM"...

Oh, he tried to release Jesus. He really did. Vs 12 says "as a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him." He had all the authority in the world. WHY DIDN'T HE RELEASE JESUS?

Dear friends, there is only one answer. It is found in two passages in Acts chapter 2 and chapter 4. Would you turn there please. Acts chapter 2 ~~verse 23~~ <sup>and Acts 4</sup>...Here we learn how a man determined to release Jesus, who had Him beaten and knew that he was innocent, yet, permitted him to be crucified.

Acts 2:23 says..."THIS MAN, DELIEVERED UP BY THE PREDETERMINED PLAN AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD, YOU NAILED TO A CROSS BY THE HANDS OF GODLESS MEN AND PUT HIM TO DEATH."

There is the answer. By the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God.

Now, turn over to Acts chapter 4 and notice verses 27-28 *say*

"For truly in this city there were gathered together against Thy Holy servant Jesus, whom thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur."

*Dear* friends, do you understand?...Inspite of what Herod or Pilate tried to do, or what the Chief Priests tried to do...IT WAS GOD'S HAND...IT WAS GOD'S PURPOSE THAT DETERMINED BEFORE HAND WHAT HAD TO BE DONE...

No body was crucifying Jesus under their own desires. Jesus voluntarily gave himself to die on the cross for you and for me.

*SOFT*  
So, do you want to know who really killed Jesus? Are you ready for this? GOD ALMIGHTY! Dear friends, it was God who put Jesus on the cross. And do you know why? LOVE! God loves us so much: and he desire that non-should perish. He wants you to come to repentance and salvation. To accomplish that purpose, Jesus died on the cross by the predetermined will of God so that you might receive His love and salvation.

Dear friends, would you like to know about the love of Jesus? From eternity passed, He wanted to go to the cross to die for your sin and my sin. He was willing to do that. He voluntarily laid down his life.

For God loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

If you have never asked Jesus to come into your life, I pray you will do so. Right now!

Shall we close in prayer?

\*  
God Could have sent 10 Thousand Angels  
To destroy the world and set Jesus free  
He could have sent 10 Thousand Angeles  
instead he let him die for you and me