

Title: The Trial Before Pilate

Text: Mark 15:1-20

*In looking forward to the Easter, I want to look*  
~~In our study of events taking place during that week that we call HOLY,~~  
*at*  
 today, we come to the Trial of Jesus before Pilate. *God would like to*  
 We are studying from  
 the Gosple of Mark. And we are in Mark chapter 15 beginning with Vs 1.  
 The Gosple of Mark chapter 15 verse 1.....(READ Vs 1-15)

PRAYER

Our Father, as we read this passage of scriputre, we are remained again that Jesus suffered and died for us. How we thank you that He is worthy - the lamb that was slain - Thank you Lord that He bore our sins on His own body on that tree. And God, I pray, that anyone here who has come into this service--anyone who has not yet believed in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, God I pray that your HolySpirit might, right now, be speaking to their hearts That they will know that Jesus died for them. That God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever might believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life. That you for all who are and all who will believe today.....In Jesus name...Amen.

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( ) In looking at the trial before Pilate, I would like you to notice the reason behind this trial. Now, we need to remember that this trial and the trail before the Shanhridan were illigal. You will notice according to Vs 1, that there is a second trail, a second trial ~~examination of Jesus that happened~~ *and that second trial was illegal* happened, before the Sanhredian. Let me explain that.

According to Jewish law, in order to pass the verdict of death it ~~re~~ required a second session of the Sanhedrin. And according to Jewish law, there had to be a time period between the two sessions of at least 24 hrs. *and*  
 Once, ~~again~~, it is fasinating to me that these Jews who followed the law to such ~~an extent~~ a degree that they even added to the Mosaic law their own traditions, would set aside, on the occassion of the trial of Jesus Christ, all of the laws that they were so obedient too. And they operated illegal. They did not let 24 hrs go by. ~~They~~ They immidiate held the second session.

Mark 15:1 says "early in the morning the chief priests with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, immediately held a consultation."

Notice, the whole council is there. Now, when it says the whole council it means the majority was there. There were some who were not there. Two notable ones who were not there were Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. They were not there when this council was held.

How many people were there? The council of the Sanhedrin constitutes 71 judges. So, you have a good 60 people who were there on that occasion.

The little phrase in Vs 1 "held a consultation" is a legal Jewish phrase meaning "to pass a resolution." They passed this resolution. They have already had a trial. They had already condemned him to death, as we learned in Mark 14 verse 64 ~~which~~ says "You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?" And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death."

They knew that they had to have a second session. And this session had to be held before they could take him to the Romans. So, they held it early in the morning. They did not allow 24 hrs to pass. So, this second session was illegal according to their own law.

Matthew 27:1 in the parallel account says that they "took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death."

So, they made the decision to put him to death at that second council. Then they led him away and delivered him up to Pilate.

Now, remember that Jesus had not slept all night long. Remember, also, that the Lord Jesus had already been beaten. He has already received 39 lashes from a rod or a reed, which is the Jewish method of punishment. It is not as severe as the Roman punishment, which he is now going to go through. But it is severe. He has been beaten severely. And he is in terrible shape, physically. But, what he is going to face now, is the most severe trial of all before the crucifixion.

So, the reason behind this <sup>First</sup> coming trail before Pilate according to the Bible was to execute this illegal decision of the Sanhedrin.

~~( ) Now, I want you to notice the response of Jesus before Pilate, to the charges that were being made. This is all a fulfillment of prophecy.~~  
But, secondly

We notice that when the charges are made by the religious leaders, Jesus does not respond. And Pilate is amazed. He is amazed as why Jesus doesn't respond. The Bible says in Isaiah that Jesus would do this. Isa 53 it says that he would not open his mouth before his accusers.

Now, Jesus did answer questions that Pilate put before him, as well as the High Priest. In Mark 14 when the High Priest ask him, "Are you the Christ? Jesus said, "Yes, I am."

And you will discovery here in a moment that he does answer some of Pilate's questions. But, the accusations agains him...NO!

And the question is why? Why didn't Jesus defend himself against those false charges?

*Because this is a*  
~~Well, the first reason is that he fulfilled prophecy.~~ And a ~~second~~ *reason*  
*This whole trial became an*  
~~reason is an example to us~~ *christian lesson*

It is a christian priinciple. It is a part of our godly life-style if we understand the scripture. And that is.. YOU DO NOT ~~AND~~ NEED TO DEFEND YOURSELF. The Bible says, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, sayth the Lord."

In I Peter chapter 2 it tells us that all of this was an example for us. That Jesus when he was reviled, he did not revile back. When he was ~~threaten~~ threatened, he did not return it.

Now, people can say a lot of bad things about you. And some times it hurts and you want to get back at them. And it may not be as severe as Jesus is going through here. But we all go though those times when some one says something bad about you. They accuse you of something. And immidately our reaction is to try and get back at them. THE BIBLE SAYS THAT THAT IS NOT THE WAY OF THE BELIEVER. The way of the believer is to accept all the charges. If someone says "YOU ARE A DURTY ROTTON RAT."

You respond.."THANK YOU. DOES ANYONE ELSE HAVE AN OPINION?"

You know, people are going to say things against you. We might as well realize that.

I think one of the most difficult areas of christian ministry in relationship to and with people is the area of criticism. HOW TO HANDLE IT. How to accept it...

Many people say, "Well, it is not true. What they are saying about me is not true." Well, God knows that. And you know that. And you and God make a majority. So just relax.

Why are we so concerned? The more Jesus was charged and accused the more he did not respond.

~~It reminds me of that commercial on T.V. "THANKS! I NEEDED THAT!"~~

I believe it is important, friends, that we understand that Jesus, when He suffered, He was not only fulfilling prophecy by not answering, but He was, as Peter says, leaving an example for us to follow.

The Bible says, "if you are being criticized and you have done wrong, then it is no big deal that you endure it. But if you are being mis-represented and falsely accused, <sup>and you respond correctly</sup> ~~then it is a big deal.~~ And God says "then it is worthy of thanks and praise. Then you bring glory to God." You bring glory to God when people accuse you falsely and you respond correctly.

You say, "How do you respond correctly?" The Bible says, "Over come evil with good." <sup>LET ME SHOW.</sup> ~~Read~~ Romans 12:17-21 and you will discover God's method of dealing with this problem. <sup>Want to</sup>

So, it was a very important thing. <sup>There are the reasons behind this trial</sup>

( ) Now, let's look John chapter 18 at the specific cause of why they are bringing Jesus to Pilate. Why didn't they handle this by themselves? John chapter 18. You know they didn't care for the Romans. So, why did they want to get involved with them?

John 18 verse 31 tells us. Vs 28 tells us that they led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium. And it was early.

Now, notice Vs 28,..."And they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium in order that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover."

Now, I find that people are inconsistent. Do you know that? But every time you point your finger at someone who you think is, that big thumb is pointing right back at you. We are all kind-of inconsistent at times. And the chief priest on this occasion <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ demonstrating their hypocrisy.

No

Now, they have just carried on illegal trails all day long. Every thing they have done was wrong. Illegal..violating all their laws. But, yet, at this point they show how dedicated they are to Jewish tradition. For they will not enter the Praetorium. They bring Jesus there. But they will not go in. They make Pilate go out..WHY? Because he is a Gentile and they are Jews. They cannot go into a Gentile resident and defile themselves before the Passover. CAN YOU IMIGINE THAT?

It shows us how decietful are hearts can become. In that moment they are deminstrating a "self-righteousness" to that Roman Gentile ruler, Pilate. And yet, all night long they had been involved in unrighteousness.

Vs 31 says "Pilate therefore said to them, 'Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law.'"

They had already done that...."The Jews said to him, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death,' that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled, which He spoke, signifying by what kind of death He was about to die."

You see, Jesus perdicted his own death. The Jews did not use crucifixion. When they put someone to death, how did they do it? ...STONING...

Isn't that interesting. Jesus predicted how he would die. The Jews said that he was quility of blaspheming. Why didn't they carry out their sentence?

In answer to that question there are two views. First, the Romans did not allow them to put anyone to death. And that is true. But, the real reason, the cause behind all of this, according to the Bible, is that the words of Jesus might be fulfilled. Because Jesus did not say that he would be stoned to death, but he did say that he would be crucified by the Romans.

It is fasinating *Now, LETS Come To The Reponse of Jesus before PILATE*  
*AND, please turn to*  
~~( ) I would also like you to notice the comments of Jesus to Pilate. And just stay here in John 18 where we find a little bit more detail. The common~~  
*Response* of Jesus to Pilate. *John chapter 18, Verse 33 -*

Now, not many people liked Pilate. Pilate was a compromiser. He was a puppet ruler. He was weak. A inconsistent ruler. He was always worried about his image. What people thought about him. He was always afraid that he might lose his job or not get a promotion to a higher position.

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And this Pilate is now the one who is questioning Jesus--the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

*John 18* Look at Vs 33... "Pilate therefore entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, "ARE YOU THE KING OF THE JEWS?"

Now, at this point this is no accusation. It is a question. So, Jesus answers. And I like his answer. "ARE YOU SAYING THIS ON YOUR OWN INITIATIVE, OR DID OTHERS TELL YOU ABOUT ME?" He is really putting Pilate in his place. Vs 34...Pilate answered, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered you up to me; WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?'"

Now, notice, carefully, Jesus never answers that question. Because once again it is an accusation. But notice what he says.. "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."

In other words, *-Pilate* he who was always worried about somebody giving Him a revolution and losing his position and all the money and fame that would come *Jesus* -just releases his mind by saying, "Hay! I am not after your job. My kingdom is not of this world. I am not trying to take your place. My kingdom is of a different nature. If it were of world, we would be fighting. But it is not.

This is a good remainder to all of us. Our citizenship, if we are christians, is not down here in this world. We have to live in this world. And we ought to do all we can to change it for the glory of God. But, please remember, our citizenship is in heaven. That is where our home is. We are just passing through. And we ought to be doing what he wants us to do. Such as winning the lost...proclaiming the gospel message. But this isn't our home. One day we will go home.

Vs 37..."Pilate therefore said to him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered 'YOU SAY CORRECTLY THAT I AM A KING. FOR THIS I HAVE BEEN BORN, AND FOR THIS I HAVE COME INTO THE WORLD, TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE TRUTH. EVERYONE WHO IS OF THE TRUTH HEARS MY VOICE.'"'

That is an incredible statement.

Pilate said to him, "WHAT IS TRUTH?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, I find no guilt in Him."

NO GUILT WHATSOEVER. And the conclusion of Pilate to this whole affair is really interesting. The religious leaders thought that they had Jesus. And yet, this Roman leader to whom they had delivered him said, "I DON'T FIND ANY GUILT OR FAULT IN HIM. NO GUILT WHATSOEVER."

out

I would like you to turn over to Luke 23 and notice something. In the account of Luke chapter 23. As the chapter begins they brought Him to Pilate. And according to Vs 2 they accused him by saying "We found this man ~~misleading~~ misleading our nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar."

WAS THAT THE CHARGE? NO! They made it up when they came to Pilate.

Vs 2.....(READ Vs 2-16)

Now, this really amazes me. I cannot help but keep pointing this out to you. How illegal and hypocritical this whole thing was.

Pilate says...His official conclusion is..about Jesus...~~THE~~ THERE IS NO FAULT IN HIM.

out

Do you know that if the Roman government had found out that Pilate had scourged a man when there was no charge against him, he could have his own life taken. But in order to please the crowd, ...Pilate was so afraid at what was happening...He not only says that he is going to release Jesus, but he hopes that it will please the crowd if he just beats Jesus.

But, he had no right at all to scourge Jesus. Non what so ever. In fact, he could have lost his life., if the Roman government had ever found out. Pilate took that chance hoping that they would never hear and the Jews would be pleased. And they could leave at that. And pilate would be off the hook.

Now, <sup>Lets</sup> ~~come~~ <sup>15</sup> ~~back~~ to Mark. We now come to Vs <sup>6</sup> ~~15~~ and the release of Barabbas. Vs 6 says.. "Now at the feast he used to release for them any one prisoner whom they requested."

Now, this was a nice little way to passify the Jews. And <sup>especially</sup> ~~especially~~ at the Feast time. Trying to let the Jews know that they are really good guys. Don't revolt. We will release for you any prisoner that you want.

Well, let's take a look at the man Barabbas..

Vs 17:12 says that the man Barabbas had been imprisoned with the insurrectionists. He is a Jew, by the way, who had committed murder in the insurrection. Obviously against the Romans. And that is probable the last guy the Romans want to see released.

But that is the guy the Jews wanted released in the place of Jesus. A murderer released in place of the Holy Son of God.

In John 18:40 it calls him a robber. In Matthew 27:16 it says that he was a notorious prisoner, well known to be a violent man.

Imagine that. A violent, notorious robber, murderer is going to be substituted for Jesus Christ who the Bible says "knew no sin. And Pilate says, I find no guilt."

And the interesting thing as you study this ~~are~~ the motives of the High Priest. Look at verses 10 and 11. The motives of the High Priest which according to the Bible Pilate already knew. Vs 10 says "For he was aware that the chief priest had delivered Him up because of what? WHAT DOES IT SAY? ENVY!!! Now, dear friends, I learn what the real issue is, behind the chief priests, elders and scribes hostile toward Jesus. IT WAS ENVY!

The people had no respect for their own leadership. They feared the chief priest and elders. ~~But~~ they didn't like them. And all of a sudden someone comes out of Galilee--- a teacher of love...one who gives hope and the message of eternal life---the message of salvation...and the crowds flock to him. And on that first day of the week when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds cried out "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." And so here we find the real motive of these chief priest and elders. ENVY..ENVY IN THEIR HEARTS.

And Pilate knew it. He was aware of their motives all along.

In Matthew 27:20 it says that they persuaded the multitudes to ask for Barabbas and to put Jesus to death."

Vs 11 here in Mark 15 says "they stirred up the multitude to ask him to release Barabbas for them instead." WHAT A COMPROMISE.

( ) NOW NOTICE THE METHODS OF PILATE. We already learn in Vs 10 that he is aware of their motives. Now, look at Vs 15.



"Wishing to satisfy the multitude, Pilate released Barabbas."

Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Pilate wishing to satisfy the multitude, released Barabbas for them.'

I wonder how many of us...wishing to satisfy our friends....You know, wandering what our friends <sup>should</sup> ~~would~~ think of us if we really became committed to Jesus, we also cop-out on our commitment and dedication.

Matthew 27 tells us something interesting about what Pilate did. Turn over there, please. Matthew 27 verse 24 and 25. What Pilate did on this occasion demonstrated the kind of methods this man was accustomed to... compromise....not willing to take a stand...no commitment and dedication in this man at all....

*Matt 27* Vs 24..."And when Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a ~~riot~~ <sup>riot</sup> was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the multitude saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to that yourselves.' And all the people answered and said, 'His blood be on us and on our children!'"

Can you imagine saying that? And can you imagine what Jesus must of thought and felt? The Bible says that he came unto his own and his own received him not.

And then we read that account of when Jesus stood and looked down upon Jerusalem and wept. And he said, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kills the prophets, how often I would have gathered you as a hen gathers her chicks." Can you imagine the heart of Jesus experiencing all of this as the crowds--- people that he loved so much---saying and crying out, <sup>For Barabbas</sup> ~~for Barabbas~~. I imagine his heart must have been broken. "HIS BLOOD BE ON US AND ON OUR CHILDREN." How could they say such a thing?

How easily the crowd changed. "HOSANNA! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD"..to...HIS BLOOD BE ON US AND ON OUR CHILDREN." "CRUCIFY HIM!"

Pilate thought by washing his hands---which is a Roman custom of saying.. "I am not a part of this"..he thought he could remove his guilt.

I like what one writer said...and I don't know if this is true..but he wrote: I can picture Pilate in Hell still trying to wash his hands.

And I think that there are many people like Pilate. People who are not willing to take a stand for Christ. People who are more concerned about what others think. People who would rather compromise...Everyone's doing it so why shouldn't I ...Dear friends, we are all accountable, personally, before a Holy God. We must answer to him and to him alone. No one else. We must answer to God for our commitment to Jesus Christ.

I think every believers who <sup>has</sup> ~~have~~ come to Love Jesus, who have received him as saviour, often finds themselves at points of compromise with friends, and situations. Not wanting to be too closely identified with Christ. Yet, He who died for us...There is only one way to go...Absolute commitment to Him. Jesus said, "If you want to follow me, then denie yourself and take up your cross and follow me."

( ) Well, let's look at the reaction of the soldiers to Pilate's decision. First of all, we notice in Vs 15 that Pilate ordered Jesus to be scourged. He ordered Jesus to be scourged thinking that some how this would relieve him of his responsibility. And that some how this crowd would leave him alone. I also believe this was an attempt on the part of Pilate to save Jesus from the cross.

Now, remember that the Jews used a rod or a staff when then beat someone. And they never allowed someone to receive more than 39 blows.

But, the <sup>n</sup>omans had no such law. According to history the only reason why a scourging is stopped is when they think the person is about to die. The whole point of a scourging is to beat a man down so that he has no ability to resent.....it is aften referred to a "breaking a person's will"... and most people would die during this scourging.

The Romans would use a short handle whip. The whip has all kinds of leather strips. And tied into the leather strips are all kinds of pieces of lead or bone. And two men did the scourging.

The prisoner was usually tied over a pole. His hands would be lashed to his feet---thus pulling his back muscles tight and tense. Then the two men, one after the others would strick out with this whip. And blow after blow would land across the tight muscels of the man's back....

The flesh would literally be pulled from the prisoners back. And often the leather strips would come around a prisoners face, ripping his eyes, and his nose and face. Oh, dear friends, a scourging was severe punishment. And many a prisoner would die. It was just horrible. And Pilate ordered this scourging. And the soldiers carried it out according to Verse 16-20.

And what was the need to do this? Why do this? Do you know the answer to that question? It is a fulfillment of prophecy.

Not only from the O.T. but also the very words of Jesus to his disciples before he went to the cross. He told them that he would be scourged.

According to Vs 16 they called together the "whole Roman cohort." Now, a jcorhort is 1/10th of a Roman legend. A Roman legend was 6 thousand men. So 1/10th of a legen was 600 men. There were 600 men watching -- mocking... this scourging. They watched as the leaders of that cohort dressed Jesus up in purple. And someone with a sick mind weaved a crown of thorns and they crushed it down upon his head. And I think you can imagine how much pain was effected by those thorns.

But I believe the wrost of all came in Vs 19 where it says that they kept beating his head with a reed. Beating his head and forcing those thorns into his skull. Beating him..spitting on him, kneeling and mocking him...

And then after doing all that they took the purple rob off of him, and put his garments back on ~~him~~ him and led him out to be crucified.

~~Oh, it is not pretty is it. It wasn't meant to be.~~

are we ready to make that commitment?

Oh, I think you are - To commit all that you are to the King - of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Shall we pray