

Before the Crucifixion: Pilate & the Jewish Leaders before Jesus (Mark 15:1-5)

- Mark's context is the church in Rome, a church persecuted & harassed
- Mark's account of Jesus' suffering is written to strengthen & encourage them
- Jesus warned the disciples of trouble in the world, but He has overcome the world
- Paul testified of suffering in Philippians (1:28) "granted to us to suffer for Him"
- Murderous hatred for God started with Abel and is now culminating with Jesus

I. The Conspiracy: The Sanhedrin Bring Jesus to Pilate (15:1)

- The first rejection Jesus endures is a religiously motivated rejection
- Jesus likely held in a room after facing the Sanhedrin from 3 AM until daybreak
- First official rejection- Jesus' confession: Messiah. Chief priest charges blasphemy
- Vs 1 - they resolved to have Jesus put to death & find a political charge for Pilate
- They twisted things a little & came up with a charge that Jesus claimed to be king
- They **bound Jesus** and led him away and handed him over to Pilate (Acts 13:48)

II. The Confusion: Pilate before Jesus (15: 2)

- The second rejection Jesus faces is a socially motivated rejection under Pilate
- Pilate was an unscrupulous man who had a keen lust for power and prestige
- He had a reputation of maddening the Jews by a number of things that he did
- One occasion he brought flags bearing images of Caesar into Jerusalem – near riot
- He raided the sacred corban coffer in the temple – to pay for building an aqueduct
- He lost his position when he attacked Samaritans on a religious pilgrimage
- Pilate did not see Jesus as a threat to the Roman empire when Jesus answered him

III. The Charges: The Sanhedrin Accuse Jesus Of Many Crimes (15:3-5)

- The chief priests accused him of many things, Luke adds more accusations (23:2)
- They saw Pilate was skeptical, they stirred the crowd up even more (Lk 23:5)
- Pilate feeling the pressure asks Jesus to give an answer to their accusations (15:4)
- Vs 5, Jesus gave no further answer. Jesus silence was a most eloquent answer
- Pilate was used to people pleading and arguing for their lives, Jesus did not!
- The passage does not tell us why Jesus was silent, but all of Scripture answers
 - 1) Jesus was silent, as the direct result of the fulfillment of prophecy (Isa 53:7)
 - 2) Jesus was silent: Pilate did not deserve an answer, he knew the truth (Lk 23:15)
 - 3) Jesus was silent: the Jewish leaders were lying & determined to murder Him