

Behold Your King!

John 19:8-16

⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer.

- I. **The Heavenly King** - vv.8-9 He was even more afraid. When Pilate heard this statement we have already read in v.7

The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.” WHEN PILATE heard “Son of God”, it caused him much fear.

Son of God - to the Jews anyone making claims to be the Son of God was guilty of blasphemy. To the Romans it's different. They were a polytheistic civilization, believing in a multiple number of gods and goddesses. The Romans believed in 12 major gods and goddesses. The king of their gods called the god of thunder and lightning was Jupiter. Other names include Mars, Venus, Diana, and Apollo. So Pilate, being a Roman, was struck with fear at the thought Jesus was one of the gods, or a son of a god. (with a little “g”)

HE entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” Pilate didn't mean “Are you from Galilee? Are you from Nazareth?.....no... Pilate had already learned that Jesus was from Galilee..... Pilate's question is.... FROM where up in the sky are you from? What planet are you from? What intergalactic place are you from?

Pilate's fear caused him to inquire of Jesus - Where are you from? What world are you from? It's amazing how people today are fearful not of the God of the Bible, but things of superstition. I use to work with a man who never came to work on Friday the 13th. He stayed home feeling much more safer there. You'd be surprised to know how so many people are driven by superstition. They read their horoscope and adjust their lives around lies given to them from witchcraft, and fortune cookies.

Pilate's fear was driven by his superstitious beliefs. He had Jesus flogged. Did he beat up an individual who was actually one of the gods? If so, he's in trouble with the gods. That is, gods with a little “g”.

Pilate should have been afraid, but his fear was in the wrong thing. Rather than fearing his superstitions, and fearing Caesar.....He should have feared God.

Paul wrote in Romans 3 describing people just like Pilate.

- There is none righteous, no, not one.... Rom. 3:10
- There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.....Rom 3:11
- And the way of peace have they not known:.....Rom. 3:17

- Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Rom. 3:14
- Their feet are swift to shed blood: Rom. 3:15
- There is no fear of God before their eyes.....Rom.3:18

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

If Pilate had only had the right kind of fear. He had the fear of man...the fear of Caesar....the fear of losing his position and power....the fear of superstition which Pilate believed Jesus might be a son of one of those Roman gods.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? JESUS MADE NO REPLY!

- Jesus was silent. Where are you from? No answer.

Isn't this the prophecy of Isaiah?

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth. (Isaiah 53:7)

Matthew 27:13-14 ¹³ Then Pilate *said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" ¹⁴ And He did not answer him with regard to even a *single* charge, so the governor marveled greatly.

- Since Pilate had no interest in the truth; no concern for the purpose in which Jesus came; no time to really know Who Jesus is..... He's getting **NO response** to the question, "Where are you from?"
- He gets no answer from Jesus. Why? Because Pilate has no heart in the whole matter. Our Lord doesn't waste His words for the hard-hearted; and the cold-hearted. Why pour water on concrete? Water is for the broken soil ready to receive nourishment.
- God said in Isaiah "I will pour water upon him that is thirsty..." (Isaiah 44:3) We read how the Lord opened the heart of Lydia so that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. (Acts 16:14)
- NOT the case with Pilate. Jesus gave no answer to his question. *Where are you from?* There is an answer to that question.... He is from Heaven. He is the Heavenly King. THAT'S WHERE HE IS FROM.... ONE DAY King Jesus will return from glory.... the KING of glory will come...What a day that will be.....a glorious day for His church....a devastating day for all people like Pilate who refused to bow before the Heavenly King.

¹⁰ So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.

Behold, Your King is the Sovereign King.

II. The Sovereign King vv.10-11

You will not speak to me? - Our King is sovereign in selecting WHO he will speak to, and Who he will NOT speak to. Pilate comes demanding Jesus speak to him. Answer me! I asked you a question, and I expect an answer!

No one can demand our King to act and respond when we want; and how we want.

The Lord is not a genie in a bottle who comes out and grants your every wish. God our King is sovereign in all that He does.

Pilate - don't you know, I have authority to release you...and to crucify you?

Jesus - v.11 you would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.

Jesus is going to the cross. The whole deal at Calvary was NOT the results of things getting out of control. The cross was not just a misfortunate event with Jesus and his ministry falling apart.

God was in total control.

This is why Jesus came. From the cradle to the grave, Jesus lived in the shadow of the cross.

1Peter 1:18-20

¹⁸ Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

¹⁹ But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

²⁰ Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

PETER PREACHING on the Day of Pentecost.....Acts 2:23 ²³ this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of lawless men and put *Him* to death.

The cross was always God's Sovereign Plan. Behold, Your King...Your Sovereign King.

Pilate--- says.... I have authority over you.....release you, or have you crucified.

Jesus said, "you have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Who is UP ABOVE? GOD !

There is GOD ABOVE. He is ABOVE all circumstances. He is above all creatures.. all men.... both good and bad.

There is NOTHING outside of God's sovereign control. Everything **that has happened**, is happening, and will happen *is ordained by God*. There's no molecule, no atom, no virus that strays outside of the permissible will of God.

It's like the song that's says.... He's got the whole world in his hands...He's got the wind and the rain; He's got the little tiny baby; He's got you and me brother; you and me sister; He's got the Whole World in His hands.

Pilate could DO NOTHING ...exercise no authority UNLESS God ordained it. Pilate's authority was limited authority given to him by God.....delegated authority. God allowed Pilate to hand Jesus over to be crucified.

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.

Proverbs 16:4 The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

III. Just King v.11c

Jesus is a JUST KING....

v.11 *Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."*

Pilate wanted to release Jesus. v.12 "From then on Pilate sought to release him....."

Was Pilate innocent? He was only doing his job as the governor. Jesus said, "therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin." Jesus was saying this---- you have sin on your hands..... blood on your hands..... you are responsible. At least it can be said, **he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.**

You have sin...but there's someone who has greater sin. Who was that? Who had the greater sin? It could be Judas Iscariot. He did betray Jesus. Judas was only a tool used by the Jewish leaders. I think the greater sin is pointed at Caiaphas, the high priest. Caiaphas signed the death warrant. Caiaphas had to put his approval on sending Jesus to Pilate for execution.

He has the GREATER SIN. Why? He has had Greater privileges to hear God's Word. He has had the Old Testament which points to Christ. Caiaphas had more exposure to the ministry of Jesus. He was a witness to the miracles....to the teachings...and to the very person of Jesus Christ; **more so, than Pilate was.**

There are different degrees of sin. Different degrees of punishment. Jesus spoke of the punishment ahead for those who have heard the gospel.....the places where Jesus preached...and healed the sick... the people who had great advantages....they did nothing....they rejected the Son of God.

JESUS as KING is JUST...He's just in calling out sin in a person's life..... He is JUST in measuring out how much sin a person has.....and what the degree of punishment will be...

Jesus said...

Matthew 10:14-15

14 And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. **15** Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

Sodom and Gomorrah had no Bible. They had no Prophet. Only Lot, who was not a good witness. They will yet be punished on the day of judgment. However, their punishment will be more bearable on the day of judgment than for towns, and villages, and countries where the Gospel has been repeatedly given.

America will face greater punishment because there's been greater privilege. There's been more preaching, more Gospel witness, more churches, more Bible colleges and schools, more exposure to God's Truth has been given to our country than any other country.

To Jesus has been given all judgment.

John 5:22 It tells us -- God, the Father....He has given all judgment to the Son, **(READ Revelation 19:11-16)**

Jesus as King is a JUST KING. His judgment is absolutely just. There's no cutting deals on judgment day. No bribery in the Heavenly courts where the VERDICT is FINAL, and there are no appeals. Nobody gets off the hook on the day when Jesus judges the world.

Pilate took a bowl of water and washed his hands. **Matthew 27:24 "I am innocent of this man's blood;**

Pilate could NOT wash his hands of his guilt and sin. There was not enough water in the world to wash away his sin.

The good news is this.... even though the Lord Jesus is a JUST KING; he is a merciful Savior. We don't read of Pilate taking advantage of the Lord's mercy. The thief on the cross did. I believe a Roman soldier found Jesus to be a merciful Lord and Savior.

Our KING is JUST....but he is **also Faithful as well as Just** in another matter..... what's that?

1John 1:9 ⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he **is faithful and just** to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

IV. The Only King vv.12-13

¹² From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³ So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha.

Pilate was wishy-washy. Couldn't make up his mind. He sought to release Jesus. He knew Jesus was innocent. The Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."

Releasing Jesus would put Pilate on the BAD SIDE with Caesar. The Emperor of Rome does not want to hear of someone running around claiming to be king. Caesar is king. The Jews threatened to tell Tiberius Caesar and that wouldn't be good for Pilate.

Pilate wanted to let Jesus go, but the Jews gave him an ultimatum - you let Jesus go, and your days are numbered. Caesar will come down on you so fast. You will no longer be his friend.

Here's the problem....Jesus shares his throne with no one. He is Lord over all. He is the ONLY King. He's not one of many kings....He is it. He is King of kings...and Lord of ILords.

Hudson Taylor: "Christ is **either Lord of all, or** is not **Lord** at all

Here we see Pilate unable to decide.

The Jews said...."You can't do this, Pilate. You won't be Caesar's friend. You'll be his enemy, and you know what Caesar will do to an enemy. We will tell on you.... we'll be going to Rome to let Caesar know what you did."

Pilate couldn't deal with that...Based on historical records there were instances where the Jews had gotten word to Caesar concerning Pilate's improper behavior and unjust dealings with the Jewish people. Pilate was walking a thin line with Caesar. He didn't need to get in trouble again.

.” ¹³ So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha.

Pilate moves to the judgment seat. It's called the Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic, Gabbatha. It took up about 3,000 square feet. This was the place where a judgment rendering was given by Pilate.

Something happened while Pilate was sitting on his throne ready to pass judgment.

His wife sent him an important message.

"Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." (Matthew 27:19)

PILATE was torn between doing the RIGHT thing.... doing what his wife said..... or cave into public pressure and please the CROWD.

Jesus is the ONLY King.....who has all rights to the throne of your heart. You must not be like Pilate.... indecisive as to WHO to please....Who to serve.... Who is king of your life?

Is Jesus your **ONE and ONLY King**? Jesus said in **Matthew 6:24**

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

James 4:4 ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Pilate could not decide. He wanted to be friends with Caesar. But doing so meant going along with the Jews in having Jesus crucified.

Sadly, Jesus was not his “One and Only” King.

V. Jesus the Crucified King

¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” ¹⁵ They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” ¹⁶ So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Day of Preparation - Friday

about the sixth hour --- close to noon... Mark 15:25 says “It was the third hour”
9am

Is this a contradiction? “about the sixth hour” telling time in those days was not a matter of precision...they did not carry around watches...or sundials..... John & Mark were in the same 3 hour ballpark....

BEHOLD YOUR KING -- Pilate... not “our” king... “your king”

The Jews disowned Jesus.... away with him....away with him...crucify him....

Pilate - shall I crucify your king? we have no king, but Caesar...

delivered him over to them to be crucified (Luke 23:25 over to their will) Roman soldiers actually carried it out.

-----for Church Bulletin-----

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