

Subject: *Behold the Man*

Scripture: *John 19:1-16*

In John 19 we have the final phase of Jesus' trial. His trial began as a Jewish religious trial where He appeared before Annas and Caiaphas, the high priest. They questioned Jesus and found Him guilty of blasphemy, but since they could not carry out the death penalty, they took Jesus to the Romans. The next phase was a civil trial where Jesus appeared before Pontius Pilate and was also questioned by Herod. Pilate heard the accusation of the Jewish council and then questioned Jesus for himself. He tried his best to release Jesus, but the Jews insisted that Jesus be crucified. They brought an accusation of insurrection and treason and convinced Pilate that if he let Jesus go free he was no friend of Caesar.

In the midst of all this drama, Pilate brought Jesus out to the Jews and said (vs. 5), "Behold the man!" He did this to mock the Jews and convince them that Jesus was no threat to Rome or anyone. What Pilate intended as mockery God intended as a powerful message for all the world to consider: "Behold the man!"

1. Behold the SUFFERING MAN

Pilate had Him scourged (whipped). This was a punishment that often caused death. It was not used on Roman citizens, but reserved for the worst kind of criminals as a deterrent against crime. Jesus was mocked and beaten. He no longer looked human.

Isaiah 52:14 As many were astonished at thee; his visage (appearance) was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Jesus was the Suffering Servant. He took the suffering that we deserved.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

2. Behold the SINLESS MAN

During this trial Pilate says three times that he finds "no fault" in Christ (Jn. 18:38; 19:4, 6). That meant there was no reason to find Jesus guilty. But like the mockery, that statement had a deeper meaning. Jesus had no fault whatsoever. He is the perfect and sinless man. Pilate's wife had a dream and sent a message to him:

Matthew 27:19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

Even Judas, the traitor, had to admit that Jesus had not sinned.

*Matthew 27:3-4³ Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,
⁴ Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.*

Jesus testified of His own sinless character, when he asked,

John 8:46 *Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?*

He was the only man who could make the claim that He never sinned against God,

John 8:29 *I do always those things that please him.*

In the Bible we have more testimony that Jesus was completely perfect and without sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Hebrews 4:15 *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

Hebrews 7:26 *For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.*

1 John 3:5 *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*

3. Behold the SON OF GOD

Look again at verses 6-8. The Jews thought Jesus deserved to die because he claimed to be the Son of God. To them it was blasphemy for any man to claim that. But Pilate had a different reaction. If Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, that put Him in a category of divine men with supernatural powers. The Romans were very superstitious and believed in many gods, and they believed these gods came down to earth at times. For all Pilate knew, he had scourged a man who bring down a curse and take vengeance on him. He decided to probe a little further (vs. 9), and asked Jesus about His origin. Jesus made it clear that Pilate had no power over Him except what God allowed. When he heard that, Pilate tried to let Jesus go free, but the Jews wouldn't have it. Jesus is the Son of God, and it's not blasphemy and it's not mythology. It is fact, as John said at the start of this Gospel:

John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

This was the purpose of everything John wrote about Jesus:

John 20:30-31 ³⁰ *And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: ³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

4. Behold the SOVEREIGN KING

Pilate brought Jesus out before the crowd and said, "Behold your King!" This again was mockery, but God intended it as a message to the world. The Jews rejected Jesus as their king, so God used Gentiles to proclaim Him as king. When Jesus came into this world wise men came from the east to Jerusalem asking, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews?" When Jesus was crucified the Roman soldiers put a sign above His head that said: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." Again, this was done in mockery, but it was the truth.

Jesus is the righteous king, the universal king, the eternal king. Lost men do not want Jesus to rule over them as King. They defy Him and say, "We will not have this man to rule over us." Until then, believers pray, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

5. Behold the SACRIFICIAL LAMB

Early in this gospel John the Baptist told his disciples who Jesus was. He introduced Him this way, **John 1:29** *The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

Jesus is the perfect, spotless, sacrifice, the Lamb of God who died for the sin of the world. The Jews turned Jesus over to the Romans and the Roman soldiers led Jesus away to Calvary to be crucified. He was not an unwilling victim, but He was an obedient sacrifice. The innocent One dying for guilty sinners.

We live in a world of humanism. The focus is on man and what he wants. Our problem is that we have focused on the wrong man. Instead of thinking everything revolves around us, we need to realize everything revolves around Jesus.

1 Timothy 2:5-6⁵ *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*⁶ *Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

Behold the man!