

Morning Sermon September 15, 2019

“King of the Jews” John 19:17-22

In John 19:19 we are told Pilate wrote a title, JESUS OF NAZARETH, KING OF THE JEWS... Now while we believe Pilate wrote this, for his own reasons, not forced to or because he was a robot, but according to his own will; we believe God also was sovereign in the writing! It made the Bible, meaning it is recorded in the Gospels, and it is true, Jesus is the King of the Jews.

I. Pilate used it –

1. To take a dig at the Jews who with their mad desire to crucify Jesus overcame his (meaning Pilate’s) efforts to save Jesus.

A. Remember, Pilate’s wife wanted him to have nothing to do with Jesus –

While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, “Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.” Matthew 27:19

B. Plus, after hearing Jesus say –

¹¹Jesus answered, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.” John 19:11

C. We are told –¹² From then on Pilate sought to release Him, ... John 19:12 A

D. Yet he was frustrated in his efforts by the fact the Jews seemed ready to tattle to Caesar about him-

but the Jews cried out, saying, “If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar’s friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.” John 19:12 B

E. So finally, he gives into them, allowing them to crucify Jesus despite the fact he counted Jesus innocent –

Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him.” John 19:6

2. Pilate’s authority was challenged by the Jew’s threat to go over his head to Caesar, and so he reasserts it with this sign –

Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘He said, “I am the King of the Jews.” ’ ” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.” John 19:19-22

A. He had Jesus scourged and beaten to try to appease the Jews.

B. He gave them the freedom of Barabbas instead of Jesus.

C. He allowed Jesus to be crucified.

D. However, when it came to the title above the cross, Pilate stood his ground! Wrote it in Hebrew, Greek & Latin!

Like most politicians who stand against evil, Pilate stops the Jews efforts to take away this title, while he allows a tidal wave of sin to get by him.

3. Pilate sees Jesus already beaten & shamed, and says “Behold your King! :14 Pilate’s placing Jesus in front of them reminds them they were beaten and shamed as an occupied people, the sign reiterates this ...

II. The Jews refused it –

Oh, how the ungodly Jews hated Jesus’ being called their king – Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” But 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!” Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away. John 19:14-16

1. Note how Pilate repeats this title even before he has it written; seemingly to irk the Jews for their venom against Jesus - “Behold your King! :14 Shall I crucify your King?” :15

2. Note how they respond, choosing one they also hated above Jesus - The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

Note they are seeing Caesar as the CONQUEROR / Jesus as the Conquered! Caesar is the winner in their eyes, Jesus is the loser ... As had been prophesied by Isaiah –

Isaiah 53:3–6 (NKJV) ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53

They misjudged what was "winning" because winning is not sinning! Jesus won for us because He was and is the spotless Lamb of God (a picture of His character / in contrast to Caesar). Also, the same picture is / should be viewed as our winning –

³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. Romans 8:36–37 (NKJV)

They hated not only Jesus, but God the Father and also what God meant us all to be in His image – ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. John 15:23 (NKJV)

III. God sovereignly controlled and moved it -

As I already said, Isaiah prophesied this

¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors. Isaiah 53:12

What we see in Isaiah 53, grammatically, is many prophetic perfects:

- Because He poured out His soul unto death
- He was numbered with the transgressors

- He bore the sin of many
- And made intercession for the transgressors

Notice that Isaiah spoke as in the past tense about things that had not happened at that point yet! This is because God is in control! He can set His King on His throne. We see this even in Psalm 2, which is applied by the Apostles to Jesus Who is our King, and King of the Jews

¹ Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?

² The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, ³ "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." ⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. ⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶ "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." ⁷ "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' " ¹⁰ Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish *in* the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him. Psalm 2

²⁵ who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, *And the people plot vain things?* ²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the LORD and against His Christ.' ²⁷ "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Acts 4:25-28

Notice according to Acts 4, Pilate, among others, did what God determined before to be done...

Pilate sinfully allowed Christ to be crucified, the Gentile sinfully mocked and beat Him, the People of Israel sinfully screamed for His crucifixion ... Yet what men meant for evil, God meant for good ...

God sovereignly works through using even sinful people, yet without sin Himself ...

Arnold Brevick