

Pilate – The Full Story

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Then the whole multitude of them (23:1) led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. (18:28)

Pilate then went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this Man?” (v. 29)

And they began to accuse Him, saying, “If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you.” (v. 30) “We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.” (v.2)

And the chief priests accused Him of many things, but He answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against You?” “Do you answer nothing? But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly. (27:12-14; 15:3-5)

Then Pilate said to them, “You take Him and judge Him according to your law.” Therefore the Jews said to him, “it is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,” that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die. (v. 31-32)

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, (and) called Jesus. (v. 33) Now Jesus stood before the governor (27:11). And the governor asked Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?” (v. 11) Jesus said to him, “are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?” Pilate answered and said, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My Kingdom is not of this world. If my Kingdom were of this world My servants would fight so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now my Kingdom is not from here.” Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a King, then?” He answered and said to him, “It is as you say.” (v. 11; 15:2) “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.” Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” (v. 34-38)

And when he had said this he went out again to the Jews to the chief priests and the crowd, and said to them, “I find no fault in Him at all.” (v. 38) “I find no fault in this Man.” But they were the more fierce, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place.” (v. 4-5)

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. Now, when Herod saw Jesus he was exceedingly glad; for he had

desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and the scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other (v. 6-12),

Then Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, and said to them, “you brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, “Behold, the Man!”

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.” The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.” Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said, “Are you not speaking to me? Do you not know that I have power to crucify You and power to release You? Jesus 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.” (4-11).

From then on, Pilate sought to release Him,

I will therefore punish him and release him.” (v. 13-16)

So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck Him with their hands. (19:1-4)

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished (v. 15). Pilate said, “You have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Then the multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do just as he had always done for them (v. 8). But Pilate answered them, saying: “Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?” (v. 9) Then they all cried out again, saying, “Not this man but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a robber. (v. 39-40)

And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas (v.16), who was chained with his fellow rebels; they had committed murder in the rebellion (v. 7) made in the city. Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” (v.17) For he knew that the

chief priests had handed Him over because of envy. But they all cried out together, “away with this man, and release to us Barabbas” (v. 18, 9-10, 18)

Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” But the chief priests stirred up the crowd, so that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. Pilate said to them, “What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ, whom you call the King of the Jews?” They shouted, saying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!”

Then the governor said, a third time, “Why, what evil has He done?” (v.23) “I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go”. 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.” When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.” (12-13)

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.” (v.19)

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!” (14-15).

But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. They cried out all the more, saying, “Let Him be crucified!” “Crucify Him!” And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that it should be as requested. When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it.” And all the people answered and said, “His blood be on us and on our children.” (v.24-25) Then Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them, released to them the one they requested, who for rebellion and murder had been thrown into prison; but he delivered Jesus to their will.

Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified, So they took Jesus and led Him away. (16).

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.” (19-22).