

Refuge City Church — October 25, 2020
“The Gospel of Mark” (Mark 15:1-15)

Introduction

- LAST WEEK = **The Prosecution** and **The Perjury**
 - Jesus is brought before Jewish leadership for questioning.
 - He is convicted of blasphemy, slapped, hit, spit on, and mocked.
 - He now goes through a 3rd Jewish trial/sentencing, and then is led to be tried by Roman officials.
- **TODAY** = We look at the continued **Prosecution** by Roman authority, and the final **Pronouncement** of **Punishment**.

Scripture Reading (Mark 15:1-15)

Verses 1-5

- 1** And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate.
- 2** And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.”
- 3** And the chief priests accused him of many things. **4** And Pilate again asked him, “Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you.” **5** But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.
- **[Two previous trials held in the dead of night]** The Sanhedrin now meets in the morning to bring final accusation against Jesus.
 - They bind him as if He is a criminal, and lead Him to Pilate.
 - Pilate is a Roman ‘Prefect’. A magistrate/governor, chosen to govern areas that required careful supervision.
 - The Sanhedrin bring Jesus before Pilate at the break of dawn... This is typically when the Romans held court.
 - In order to bring about a capital crime, they send Jesus to Pilate under the charge of ‘claiming to be a king’.
 - **John 18:29-31**, “So Pilate went outside to them and said, ‘What accusation do you bring against this man?’ They answered him, ‘If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.’ Pilate said to them, ‘Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.’ The Jews said to him, ‘It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.’”
 - The initial charge = blasphemy
 - Pilate questions Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”
 - The new charge = treason; to help incite Rome against Jesus as well.
 - Jesus’ answer **[Matthew, Mark, Luke]** = “You have said so.”
 - **John 18:33-38**, “So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your

own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over 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 have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him.”

- Roman Trial #2 **[not mentioned in Mark's account]**

• Pilate sends Jesus to Herod Antipas

- **REMINDER:** Herod had known and heard about Jesus and His ministry **[Matthew 14:1, “...Herod heard about the fame of Jesus,”]**

- **Luke 23:8-11**, “When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate.”

Verses 6-11

6 Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. **7** And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. **8** And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. **9** And he answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” **10** For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. **11** But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead.

- Innocence vs. Guilt

- During Passover, there was a custom that one prisoner would be released back to the people.

• So they opted for Barabbas.

• According to all the gospel accounts, Barabbas was a notorious prisoner **[Matthew 27:16]**, a murderous rebel and insurrectionist **[Mark 15:7; Luke 23:19]**, and a robber **[John 18:40]**.

• Yet, the Sanhedrin were so filled with contempt towards Jesus, that when Pilate offers them the choice between Jesus and Barabbas, they opted for Barabbas.

• **Verse 10:** Pilate perceived why they had brought Jesus to him.

- “Envy” — but the chief priests stirred up the crowd.

• Throughout, Pilate claims the innocence of Jesus.

- **John 18:28/19:4** = “I find no guilt in him...”

- **Luke 23:14** = "I did not find this man guilty... Neither did Herod."
- **Luke 23:22** = "I have found in him no guilt deserving of death."
- **Matthew 27:24** = to avoid a riot, he washed his hands of the matter.
- **Mark 15:14** = "what evil has he done?"

Verses 12-15

12 And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" **13** And they cried out again, "Crucify him." **14** And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." **15** So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

- Given that they asked for the release of Barabbas, Pilate now asks what should be done with Jesus... Emphatically they cry out "Crucify him!"
- **Prior** to giving in to their requests to avoid a riot, Pilate has Jesus flogged or scourged in an attempt to satisfy their request **[due to not finding any guilt in him, why should he be put to death?]**
- **John 19:1-3**, "Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands."
- According to C. Truman Davis **[a medical point of view]**, "The heavy whip is brought down with full force again and again across Jesus' shoulders, back and legs. At first the heavy thongs cut through the skin only. Then, as the blows continue, they cut deeper into the subcutaneous tissues, producing first an oozing of blood from the capillaries and veins of the skin, and finally spurting arterial bleeding from vessels in the underlying muscles... Finally the skin of the back is hanging in long ribbons and the entire area is an unrecognizable mass of torn, bleeding tissue."
- Ultimately, to save his own self/job, Pilate gives in to the crowds demands, and has Jesus delivered to be crucified.

Response/Conclusion

- As we spoke to last week, "What should our response be to the prosecution of Jesus?"
- Willingness to bear pain and humiliation for Jesus.
- Praise Him more earnestly.
- To have more assurance and confidence of the finished work of our redemption.
- Today, we need to take it a step further and ask, "**What is our response to the sin in our life?**"
- Illegal trials, falsified information, beating, being spit on, flogged **[having his back completely opened up]**, crown of thorns driven in to this head, and sentenced to a torturous death.
- He experienced it all for you and me. Yet, how do we respond? Do we live like...
 - 1. Religious detractors**

- Living a religiously-cloaked life, yet your heart depends on and appeals to the state for your salvation.
 - **Matthew 23:25-28**, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

2. Barabbas

- In your sin, deserving of death, Jesus took your place and you don’t even give Him a second glance?
- Are you taking advantage of your freedom to fall right back in to your sin?
 - **Galatians 5:13**, “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

3. Pilate

- Rather than stand on what is true, and stand courageously in the face of opposition, you cave to the emotional plea of society?
- Rather than speak to the sin of others, do you simply wash your hands of the matter and recuse yourself because it’s not your problem?
 - **James 4:17**, “So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”

- In spite of your response, lifestyle, or ignorance, Jesus stood in your place and went to the cross for you, because He loves you!
 - **Romans 5:8**, “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - BECAUSE WE ARE NOT MEANT TO CONTINUE TO LIVE IN SIN, SEPARATED FROM GOD! [**Proverbs 26:11**, “like a dog that returns to his vomit...”]
 - **1 Peter 2:22-24**, “He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.”