**October 14, 2021**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT”**

**Mark 15:1-20**

***Mark 15:1 And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried [him] away, and delivered [him] to Pilate."***

In the morning, the Sanhedrin, the Jewish council over which the high priest presided, met and determined to hand Jesus over to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea (from AD 26–36). Jesus was first taken to Annas, then Caiphas (the high priest), and then to the Roman in charge, Pilate. Pilate was a cruel man who was more than willing to execute enemies of Rome. Since the Jews were under Roman rule, they couldn’t carry out the death penalty; they would need the Roman governor’s help.

***John 18:31 “Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:”***

The “whole council” would be the Sanhedrin, the highest Jewish judicial body, which must ratify the sentence pronounced by night. Pilate alone, however, who wielded Rome’s authority in Palestine, could actually have a death sentence carried out. Rome had power in Jerusalem in those days and only the Romans could order Jesus' death. In this we see a fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy.

***Mark 10:33 “Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:”***

***Mark 15:2 "And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest [it]."***

In order for Pilate to be willing to execute Jesus, he would need to be guilty of a crime against Rome like sedition. Since he claimed to be the Messiah, a Jewish King, this was the charge the Sanhedrin brought against him. To the Jews, Jesus’ crime was one of blasphemy, a religious offense. Pilate’s concern is that Jesus might represent a political threat. The Jews were to have no king but Caesar. Pilate really was not in favor of killing Jesus. Thus, he questions Him on His pretensions, if any, to kingship. He asked Jesus, Are you the king of the Jews? Jesus answered Pilate in a way that left no argument. Jesus’s answer, you say so, is an affirmation. This was as if He was saying, "Yes, but you said it". After all, this was the basis for his crucifixion. But Jesus didn’t share Pilate’s conception about what it meant to be the King of the Jews.

***John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.***

***Mark 15:3 "And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing."***

***Mark 15:4 "And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee."***

***Mark 15:5 "But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled."***

As the chief priests leveled many accusations at Jesus, he refused to respond, and his silence annoyed and amazed Pilate. Sometimes, the best answer (God’s will) is no answer (God’s silence) at all, and we see that was what the Lord did there. This requires Christian maturity and humility. To put it another way, “learn to hold your peace, and let the Lord fight your battle.”

***1 Thessalonians 4:11 “And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;”***

***John 19:9 “And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer.”***

***Acts 8:32 “The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:”***

***1 Peter 2:15 “For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:”***

The chief priests were accusing Jesus of everything they could think of to try to stir Pilate up. They mentioned Jesus being King of the Jews, thinking Pilate would think that Jesus would lead the Jews against Rome. Pilate was truly trying to get to the bottom of this. He was not on anyone's side at that moment. He marveled that Jesus was not defending Himself by answering back all these accusations, as we see in verse 5. The fact that He opened not His mouth is illustrated by a lamb being brought to the slaughter.

***Isaiah 53:7 “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”***

***1 Peter 2:23 “Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:”***

***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.”***

***Revelation 5:12 “Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.”***

***Mark 15:6 "Now at [that] feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired***."

***Mark 15:7 "And there was [one] named Barabbas, [which lay] bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection."***

***Mark 15:8 "And the multitude crying aloud began to desire [him to do] as he had ever done unto them."***

***Mark 15:9 "But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews?"***

***Mark 15:10 "For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy."***

Each year during the Passover festival, Pilate had a custom of releasing a prisoner that the Jews requested as a way of placating them. This was like a governor pardoning a criminal. Barabbas was not only a murderer but had tried to overthrow the government, as well. Barabbas was not just a regular criminal, but a vicious murderer. Pilate thought he knew how to deal with the situation. He knew that Jesus was innocent of any wrongdoing. He could see right through these accusations of the high priests. He knew that their jealousy of His powerful ministry had caused them to try to get Jesus killed. He knew that Jesus was not guilty of any crime punishable by death. God had even revealed to his wife Jesus’ innocence.

***Luke 23:4 “Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man.”***

***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.”***

Pilate asked the crowd if they wanted him to release the popular teacher, the King of the Jews. However, the chief priests stirred up the crowd to ask instead for Barabbas, a murderer who had been part of a rebellion against Roman rule.

***Mark 15:11 "But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them."***

The Chief priests had a hold on the people. They were supposed to be upholding the things of God but were so puffed up with pride that they were about to destroy the Saviour of the World. High priests were supposed to know the Scriptures, and yet they would not believe that Jesus was Messiah. They used their great influence here and caused the people to cry out for this murderer Barabbas over Jesus. Luke records that Pilate sent Jesus to Herod to be judged. Herod may have concluded that Pilate was playing a joke on him in referring so trivial a case. Pilate and Herod, even though they were involved in sentencing Jesus, were not as guilty as these high priests, priests, scribes, and Pharisees.

***Luke 23:7-12***

***7 And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.***

***8 And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.***

***9 Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.***

***10 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.***

***11 And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.***

***12 And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.***

***Mark 15:12 "And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do [unto him] whom ye call the King of the Jews?"***

***Mark 15:13 "And they cried out again, Crucify him."***

When Pilate asked what they wanted him to do with Jesus, the people demanded that he be crucified. Pilate was no kindhearted man, but he recognized that their demand made no sense. The people had been worked into a frenzy and wanted blood. Incited by their religious leaders, the very ones who had been celebrating Jesus’s teaching and miracles only a few days before were now calling for his death.

***Mark 15:14 "Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him."***

Pilate was seeking every way he could to not kill Jesus. Pilate believed Jesus was who He said He was. He asked them “What has he done wrong?” Pilate told them you will have to judge your King yourselves. These two words "crucify him" changed all of history. This cry will ring through all the ages. It brought death and hell to those who do not believe, and life everlasting for those who do believe. Pilate, through these verses, tried to make the people understand that they were crucifying an innocent man. The people would not listen to Pilate but listened to these evil priests. What a terrible thing to know that you asked for Jesus to be crucified. They were crying out, but we had our part in this, as well. Every person who ever lived (except Jesus) had sin in his life at one time. Our sins helped cause Jesus to be crucified. He was crucified for our sins, so that we might go free.

***Mark 15:15 "And [so] Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged [him], to be crucified."***

Ultimately, Pilate’s decision is pragmatic and was driven by his desire to please the people. One unjust death is better than city wide dissent and violence. He wasn’t really concerned about righteous justice. He simply wanted to avoid a riot. To satisfy the crowd, he released a known murderous sinner and handed over the sinless savior, Jesus to be crucified. Matthew records how he tried to self-righteously justify this horrible injustice!

***Matthew 27:24 "When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but [that] rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed [his] hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye [to it]."***

***Mark 15:16 "And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band."***

***Mark 15:17 "And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his [head],"***

***Mark 15:18 "And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews!"***

Roman soldiers led Jesus away for his execution, but not before mocking him in front of the whole company. "Praetorium" means governor's courtroom, or hall of judgement. This "whole band", here, meant a large number (six hundred) of soldiers. They faked homage to him by putting a purple robe on him, pressing a crown of thorns into his head, crying out, Hail, King of the Jews, and bowing before him. Little did they know that purple showed Jesus as the King of not only the Jews but was looking forward to when He will come in the clouds as King of kings and Lord of lords when he will be King of all the earth. Thorns were a very hated plant on the earth. This "crown of thorns" showed just how little regard these soldiers had for our Lord. Of course, it was painful, also, with the thorns sticking in His head. This salute was a sarcastic salute. They were saying, "You say you are King, but look at you now."

***Mark 15:19 "And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing [their] knees worshipped him."***

***Mark 15:20 "And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him."***

They also beat him with a stick and spat on him. All of this was mocking Jesus. Had they only known who He really was, they would never have done this. This spitting and striking Jesus went on and on. Bowing to worship Him was laughing at Him and making fun, as well. Jesus was flogged. This was a brutal means of punishment in which a whip, with pieces of bone or metal tied into its ends, was applied to the back of a person until his flesh was ripped to shreds. Then they took him away to crucify him. We know from other Scriptures that they took Him outside the city wall to be crucified.

***1 Corinthians 2:8 “Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”***

***Hebrews 12:2-4***

***2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.***

***3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.***

***4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.***

**QUESTIONS**

1. After the council of priests, elders, and scribes met, they bound Jesus and took Him to whom?
2. Who was the only one who could order the death penalty in those days?
3. What did Pilate ask Jesus?
4. How did Jesus answer?
5. When the chief priests accused Jesus of many things, what did Jesus answer?
6. Why did the chief priest tell Pilate that Jesus said He was King of the Jews?
7. Why did Pilate marvel at Jesus?
8. This release of a prisoner at the feast was like what?
9. Why did Pilate send Jesus to Herod?
10. What good thing for Pilate came of all this?
11. Who was truly to blame for the crucifixion?
12. Who was the murderer who was bound for trial?
13. Who did Pilate want to release?
14. Who did the people want released?
15. Who had swayed the people's opinion?
16. What did Pilate know was the real reason the priests wanted Jesus killed?
17. Pilate asked the people what, to do with Jesus, what did they answer?
18. What did Pilate try to convince them of to no avail?
19. What part did we have in Jesus being crucified?
20. What physical thing did Pilate do to show that he had no part in this?
21. Who took Jesus away?
22. What does Praetorium mean?
23. What color robe did they put on Jesus?
24. What did this purple robe really show Jesus as?
25. What was His crown made of?
26. What other terrible things did the soldiers do to Jesus?
27. What did they put on Him to take Him to crucify Him?