

THE SUFFERING & RESURRECTION OF JESUS

SVCC Sunday Morning Bible Study

Summer 2020

LESSON 4: TRIAL BEFORE THE ROMAN GOVERNOR

Primary readings: Matthew 27:1-10 & 15-26, Luke 23:2-12, John 18:28b-38a & 19:1-16

Full readings: Matthew 27:1-31, Mark 15:1-20, Luke 23:1-25, John 18:28 to 19:16

What about Judas? — Matthew 27:1-10

- verse 3 — Didn't Judas willingly betray Jesus for money? Why then does he now show remorse?
- What happened with the money Judas had been paid? (Compare Acts 1:18-19.)
- *Another fulfillment of prophecy.* In what way did this event fulfill prophecy? (What other prophet in addition to Jeremiah does Matthew quote here? Check your Bible's footnotes or study notes to find out.)

Trial Before Pilate, Part 1, and Trial Before Herod

LUKE'S PERSPECTIVE — **Luke 23:2-12**

- verses 2 & 5 — List the charges brought against Jesus by the Jewish leaders:
- How did Jesus respond to the charges brought against him? Why? (Notice the link to the prophecy of Isaiah 53:7.)
- Why did Pilate send Jesus to Herod?
- Consider verses 8-12. Did Jesus receive justice from Herod? How does Herod's approach to dealing with Jesus compare with Pilate's? Which leader treated Jesus more justly?

JOHN'S PERSPECTIVE — **John 18:28b-38a**

- Why did the Jewish leaders decline to enter the governor's palace?
- What limitation had the Romans placed on the Jews, so that the Jews had brought Jesus to Pilate?
- How did Jesus explain his kingship to Pilate? And what did Pilate think of his explanation?

Trial Before Pilate, Part 2 — Matthew 27:15-26

- Matthew 27:18 — What did Pilate perceive as the reason for the Jewish leaders' accusations against Jesus?
- John 18:39 — What Passover tradition did Pilate honor on this day?
- Mark 15:7 — Why was Barabbas in prison?
- Luke 23:14-16 — What were Pilate's and Herod's judgments of Jesus?

- Matthew 27:19 — Why do you think Pilate’s wife experienced this dream? What might God have been doing here?
- Matthew 27:23 — What do you think? Did Pilate really care that Jesus was innocent? And did the crowd even know why they were shouting for Jesus to die?

Food for thought:

- In what way are we like Barabbas—and gratefully so?
- Pilate washed his hands of Jesus’ blood (Matthew 27:24). Did it work? What does his example teach us about standing quietly by when we have the power to stop injustice?
- The people cried out, “His blood is on us and on our children!” (Matthew 27:25). In what way is this a good thing?

- Luke 23:25 — *Notice that the people set free the murderer and murdered the one who sets people free. And God, in his profound wisdom, used this terrible event for our redemption.*

Trial Before Pilate, Part 3 — John 19:1-16

- In what ways did the governor’s soldiers “honor” Jesus? What is the irony here?
- verses 4-6 — Judging from the accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Pilate had already decided to give in and have Jesus executed. He had had Jesus flogged—but now he brought Jesus out once more, wearing the purple robe, and reasserted that he found no basis for the charges against Jesus. Why do you think Pilate kept trying to defend Jesus’ innocence? What not simply go ahead and crucify him, make the Jews happy, and be done with it?
- verses 7-12 — What claim by Jesus convinced the Jewish leaders that Jesus must die? How did Pilate react to that claim?
- verse 11 — What do you think Jesus meant by, “Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin”? To whom was Jesus referring?
- verses 12-15 — What argument by the Jewish leaders finally persuaded Pilate to have Jesus crucified?
- verse 15 — What does the Jews’ statement about Caesar mean in the larger story of the Bible? (Hint: See 1 Samuel 8.)