



## Lesson 65 – In Pilate’s Judgment Hall

Based on Matthew 27:2, 11-31; Mark 15:1-20; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-40; John 19:1-16

### 1) Where does our lesson begin today?

**John 18:28** Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of \_\_\_\_\_: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.

In the judgment hall of Pilate, the Roman governor, Christ stands bound as a prisoner. About Him are the guard of soldiers, and the hall is fast filling with spectators. Just outside the entrance are the judges of the Sanhedrin, priests, rulers, elders, and the mob.

According to their ceremonial law they would be defiled thereby and thus prevented from taking part in the feast of the Passover. In their blindness they did not see that murderous hatred had defiled their hearts. They did not see that Christ was the real Passover lamb, and that, since they had rejected Him, the great feast had for them lost its significance.

### 2) What question did Pilate ask Jesus?

**Matthew 27:11** And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

### 3) Did the mob remain quiet?

**Matthew 27:12** And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered \_\_\_\_\_.

Pilate looked upon Him with no friendly eyes. The Roman governor had been called from his bedchamber in haste, and he determined to do his work as quickly as possible. He was prepared to deal with the prisoner with magisterial severity.

Pilate looked at the men who had Jesus in charge, and then his gaze rested searchingly on Jesus. He had had to deal with all kinds of criminals; but never before had a man bearing marks of such goodness and nobility been brought before him. On His face he saw no sign of guilt, no expression of fear, no boldness or defiance. He saw a man of calm and dignified bearing, whose countenance bore not the marks of a criminal, but the signature of heaven.

### 4) Confused, what did he ask Jesus?

**Matthew 27:13-14** Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness \_\_\_\_\_ thee? And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor \_\_\_\_\_ greatly.

Christ's appearance made a favorable impression upon Pilate. His better nature was roused. He had heard of Jesus and His works. His wife had told him something of the wonderful deeds performed by the Galilean prophet, who cured the sick and raised the dead. Now this revived as a dream in Pilate's mind. He recalled rumors that he had heard from several sources. He resolved to demand of the Jews their charges against the prisoner.

### 5) What did Pilate ask them again?

**John 18:29-30** Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What \_\_\_\_\_ bring ye against this man? They answered and said unto him, If he were not a \_\_\_\_\_, we would not have delivered him up unto thee.

They hoped to impress Pilate with a sense of their importance and thus lead him to accede to their request without going through many preliminaries. They were eager to have their sentence ratified; for they knew that the people who had witnessed Christ's marvelous works could tell a story very different from the fabrication they themselves were now rehearsing.



6) Did Pilate want to go along with their plans?

**John 18:31-32** Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to \_\_\_\_\_ law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to \_\_\_\_\_: That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die.

The priests were in a dilemma. They saw that they must cloak their hypocrisy under the thickest concealment. They must not allow it to appear that Christ had been arrested on religious grounds. Were this put forward as a reason, their proceedings would have no weight with Pilate. They must make it appear that Jesus was working against the common law; then He could be punished as a political offender.

7) What accusation did they ultimately come up with to condemn Christ?

**Luke 23:2** And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the \_\_\_\_\_, and forbidding to give tribute to \_\_\_\_\_, saying that he himself is Christ a King.

Pilate saw through their purpose. He did not believe that the prisoner had plotted against the government. His meek and humble appearance was altogether out of harmony with the charge. Pilate was convinced that a deep plot had been laid to destroy an innocent man who stood in the way of the Jewish dignitaries.

8) What did He ask Jesus?

**Luke 23:3-4** And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the \_\_\_\_\_? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it. Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find \_\_\_\_\_ in this man.

Standing behind Pilate, in view of all in the court, Christ heard the abuse; but to all the false charges against Him He answered not a word. His whole bearing gave evidence of conscious innocence. He stood unmoved by the fury of the waves that beat about Him. It was as if the heavy surges of wrath, rising higher and higher, like the waves of the boisterous ocean, broke about Him, but did not touch Him. He stood silent, but His silence was eloquence. It was as a light shining from the inner to the outer man.

9) How did John record this?

**John 18:33-35** Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews? Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of \_\_\_\_\_, or did others tell it thee of me? Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what \_\_\_\_\_ done?

10) Jesus replied:

**John 18:36-37** Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants \_\_\_\_\_, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the \_\_\_\_\_. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

11) What did Pilate say?

**John 18:38** Pilate saith unto him, What is \_\_\_\_\_? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

These words from a heathen judge were a scathing rebuke to the perfidy and falsehood of the rulers of Israel who were accusing the Saviour. As the priests and elders heard this from Pilate, their disappointment and rage knew no bounds. They had long plotted and waited for this opportunity. As they saw the prospect of the release of Jesus, they seemed ready to tear Him in pieces.



**12) What did Luke say followed that?**

**Luke 23:5** And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from \_\_\_\_\_ to this place.

**13) What plan did Pilate make?**

**Luke 23:6-7** When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean. And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto \_\_\_\_\_ jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.

Pilate dreaded the ill will of the people. Should he refuse to give Jesus into their hands, a tumult would be raised, and this he feared to meet. When he heard that Christ was from Galilee, he decided to send Him to Herod, the ruler of that province, who was then in Jerusalem. By this course, Pilate thought to shift the responsibility of the trial from himself to Herod.

**14) How did Herod greet Jesus?**

**Luke 23:8** And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding \_\_\_\_\_: 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.

**15) Did Jesus cooperate?**

**Luke 23:9** Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him \_\_\_\_\_.

**16) What question did he seek an answer to?**

**Mark 6:16** But when Herod heard thereof, he said, It is John, whom I beheaded: he is \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead.

This Herod was he whose hands were stained with the blood of John the Baptist. When Herod first heard of Jesus, he was terror-stricken.

The king hoped to banish forever from his mind the memory of that bloody head brought to him in a charger. He also desired to have his curiosity gratified and thought that if Christ were given any prospect of release, He would do anything that was asked of Him.

**17) What was the outcome of His time with Herod?**

**Luke 23:11** And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and \_\_\_\_\_ him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.

The mission of Christ in this world was not to gratify idle curiosity. He came to heal the brokenhearted. Could He have spoken any word to heal the bruises of sin-sick souls, He would not have kept silent. But He had no words for those who would but trample the truth under their unholy feet.

The last rays of merciful light were shining upon Herod's sin-hardened heart. He felt that this was no common man; for divinity had flashed through humanity. At the very time when Christ was encompassed by mockers, adulterers, and murderers, He felt that he was beholding a God upon His throne.

**18) What happened next?**

**Luke 23:13-16** And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the \_\_\_\_\_: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found \_\_\_\_\_ in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him. I will therefore chastise him, and \_\_\_\_\_ him.



Here Pilate showed his weakness. He had declared that Jesus was innocent, yet he was willing for Him to be scourged to pacify His accusers. He would sacrifice justice and principle in order to compromise with the mob.

If at the first Pilate had stood firm, refusing to condemn a man whom he found guiltless, he would have broken the fatal chain that was to bind him in remorse and guilt as long as he lived. Had he carried out his convictions of right, the Jews would not have presumed to dictate to him. Christ would have been put to death, but the guilt would not have rested upon Pilate.

**19) What warning did God give Pilate?**

**Matthew 27:19** When he was set down on the judgment seat, his \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

A message from God warned him from the deed he was about to commit. In answer to Christ's prayer, the wife of Pilate had been visited by an angel from heaven, and in a dream, she had beheld the Saviour and conversed with Him. Pilate's wife was not a Jew, but as she looked upon Jesus in her dream, she had no doubt of His character or mission... ... She saw Christ seated upon the great white cloud, while the earth reeled in space, and His murderers fled from the presence of His glory. With a cry of horror, she awoke, and at once wrote to Pilate words of warning.

**20) What did Pilate try next?**

**Matthew 27:15-17** Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a \_\_\_\_\_, whom they would. And they had then a notable prisoner, called \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

It was customary at this feast to release one prisoner whom the people might choose. This custom was of pagan invention; there was not a shadow of justice in it, but it was greatly prized by the Jews. The Roman authorities at this time held a prisoner named Barabbas, who was under sentence of death. This man had claimed to be the Messiah. He claimed authority to establish a different order of things, to set the world right. Under satanic delusion he claimed that whatever he could obtain by theft and robbery was his own.

**21) Who did the Jews choose?**

**Matthew 27:21** The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I \_\_\_\_\_ unto you? They said, Barabbas.

**22) Frustrated, what did Pilate ask the mob?**

**Matthew 27:22-23** Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called \_\_\_\_? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. And the governor said, Why, what \_\_\_\_\_ hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

**23) What did the mob cry out?**

**Matthew 27:25-26** Then answered all the people, and said, His \_\_\_\_\_ be on us, and on our \_\_\_\_\_. Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

**24) What happened next?**

**Matthew 27:27-31** Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they \_\_\_\_\_ him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a \_\_\_\_\_ of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they \_\_\_\_\_ upon him, and took the reed, and \_\_\_\_\_ him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.



Satan led the cruel mob in its abuse of the Saviour. It was his purpose to provoke Him to retaliation if possible, or to drive Him to perform a miracle to release Himself and thus break up the plan of salvation. One stain upon His human life, one failure of His humanity to endure the terrible test, and the Lamb of God would have been an imperfect offering, and the redemption of man a failure. But He who by a command could bring the heavenly host to His aid—He who could have driven that mob in terror from His sight by the flashing forth of His divine majesty—submitted with perfect calmness to the coarsest insult and outrage.

**25) How will they see Jesus again?**

**Revelation 19:16** And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, \_\_\_\_\_ OF KINGS, AND \_\_\_\_\_ OF LORDS.

**Can you see the determination in the Son of God to fulfil prophecy and redeem the world?**

**Would you like to have His conviction and presence in your life?**

**When is the time to seek His face?**

