

Title: The Condemnation of The King

Passage: Mark 15:1-15

Introduction

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- Spent 14 years in prison because of his faith in Christ.
- An example of a man who stood for his faith. He underwent his own mock trial in Romania.
- How did he find encouragement during unjust trial (guilty without evidence? Example of Jesus.

Context of Passage:

- Last few days of Jesus ministry. Betrayed by Judas and arrested in the Garden of Gethsamane.
- Mock trial by the Sanhedrin (Jewish leaders) in middle of the night who condemned him for blasphemy and treason.
- Sanhedrin did not have authority to execute so brought Jesus to the Roman authorities.

EXPOSITION

Mark 15:1-2

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.

the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council

- Various groups were united against Jesus
- Whole council = Sanhedrin (Jewish council)
- Why concerned about Jesus?
 - Jesus pointed out their sin while also being gracious and humble.
 - He was a true shepherd-like leader.

Pontius Pilate

- Fifth governor of Judas for 11 years
 - Length of tenure shows he was not promoted
- Governorship: position was not prominent in the Roman Empire
- Pilate tenure ended when he was fired and banished elsewhere
- Misperception: An innocent leader who was swayed by the crowds.
 - History revealed he was cruel who killed people without reason
 - Truth: He was a corrupt leader like the religious leaders

Jesus-Pilate's Conversation - primarily concerned 4 main subjects:

- Whether Jesus was a king
- Nature of truth
- Jesus' guilt or innocence
- Pilate giving some amnesty

Mark 15:2-5

And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Luke 23:2 (false accusation)

And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king."

Mark 15:2 (Jesus' initial reply)

And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so."

- You have said so = You said it so it's true

John 18:36 (Jesus further reply)

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."

- Jesus: I am not here to take your kingdom but rather my kingdom transcends.
- In response, Pilate was amazed how calm Jesus was.
- Why was Jesus calm? From the Garden of Gethsamane, He knew He had to die to save God's people.

Discussion: What is truth?

John 18:37-38a

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?"

- Jesus pointed to reason why Jesus came: to bear witness of the truth.

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 17:17-18

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

- Truth = what is it? Who determines it?
 - Jesus is God's Incarnate Word to us.
 - Jesus is the central character of the Bible.
- Today; negative attitude against doctrine and truth.
 - Many false prophets declare truth is subjective. Sin is not sin under the Bible but whatever people prefer or decide.
 - Apart from the Bible, it is idolatry to twist truth to be subjective.
- Application: We must always be grounded in Jesus - He is the truth.
 - Be aware of deception that sin is whatever we feel.

Luke 23:4

Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no guilt in this man."

John 18:37b

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him.

Matthew 27:19

Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream."

Matthew 27:24

So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

Mark 15:6-11

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

And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. And he answered them

- Pontius tradition
 - allowed one criminal to be released each Passover.
- He offered Jesus and Barabbas, where he thought the crowd would side with Jesus. But the religious leaders swayed the crowd.

Luke 23:18-19

But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas"— a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder.

Barabbas

- Full name: Jesus Barabbas
 - Barabbas = person's last name
- Barabbas = son of the father
 - Bar = son
 - Abbas = father
- Likely a rabbi or influential person who had a prominent status in his culture. A chief instigator of violence.
- Ironic comparison:
 - Jesus Barabbas (human son who was an insurrectionist, religious leader who tried to give people earthly, political freedom) vs.
 - Jesus Christ (Son of God the Father, one who could give them eternal, spiritual freedom)
- Implications:
 - Like the crowds, people make a choice that more reflects who they are or what their flesh wants rather than Who they need and truly satisfies their eternal needs.

Mark 15:12-15

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

Luke 23:13-18

Pilate then called together the chief priests and 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. I will therefore punish and release him." But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas"—

Luke 23:23-24

But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted.

Pilate

- Pilate's failed leadership:
 - he wanted to do what is easy/politically correct. (Mob justice)
 - Not what is right or hard to do. (True justice)

APPLICATION

Many people today are like Pilate. Are you like him?

- False view of Jesus as merely a loving, polite teacher among others
 - See no harm in Jesus
 - See no reason to risk anything for Jesus
 - See Jesus as a King but not your king
- Truth: Jesus' teaching is clear
 - Jesus is one with God the Father.
 - Jesus is the only way to God.
 - Apart from Jesus, one's destiny is hell.
- Question: Who do you think Jesus is?
 - Is Jesus making things up - liar, lunatic?
 - Is Jesus telling the truth - Lord?

Left to ourselves, we too would choose Barabbas if put in a similar situation.

- We tend to go with what is comfortable and tangible.
- With Christ, pray for God's wisdom and perspective.
 - Jesus' way of doing justice is soaking all of the justice of God on the cross.
 - Do we trust God
- Without Christ, we tend to choose the fleshly, violent route of Barabbas.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

If a Christian, Jesus' experiences encourage you to stand strong in uncompromised beliefs even if you have to go through persecution.

- When go through trials, you can stand firm even to the point of death
- Do not cower or give up.

John 16:1-4a

"I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

- people will hate Christians.
- The more we show Christ, the brighter you shine in the darkness. The brighter you shine, the more the darkness will want to "cancel" you.

John 3:20

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

Question: Are you ready for persecution for your faith?

- When feel the pressure to compromise truth from society, will you stand firm with grace and truth? (Or cower)
- Make your commitment to God clear.

Joshua 24:15

And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Acts 5:29

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.

- God will take care of you. Do not be afraid to lose your job. Don’t be afraid of anything. Just stand.

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

- Our strength is in God.

Psalms 62:5-7

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

1 Peter 4:12-16

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

Matthew 5:10-12

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.