

"My Kingdom is not of this World" (Slide 1)

John 18

Reading: Matthew 26:57-68

John 18:28-32 (Slide 2)

28 Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. 29 Therefore Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" (Slide 3) 30 They answered and said to him, "If this Man were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him to you." 31 So Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law." The Jews said to him, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death," (Slide 4) 32 to fulfill the word of Jesus which He spoke, signifying by what kind of death He was about to die.

"If this Man were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him to you."

These people could not level any kind of accusation against Jesus because He simply did no wrong. Any accusation had to be made up!! **(Matthew 26)** A lie which is at the lowest form of inhumanity according to any standard.

They lacked self-awareness and were consumed by narcissism. Evil is their very nature! They were the epitome of prosperity preachers and false teachers of their day.

They say they could not put anyone to death yet their hands will be blood stained from the martyr Steven and would have been from the woman caught in adultery had Jesus not intervened.

In **Luke 4**, those that worshipped in the synagogue of *Nazareth* were so enraged regarding His teaching that they led Him out of the city and would have thrown Him off a cliff, but, they were blinded undoubtedly by the Spirit and He simply slipped through the midst of them all.

Again the manner of which He would die and who it was that would carry out His murder was predetermined by God as pointed out in **Acts 2**. Prove positive throughout the entirety of Jesus *life* and His *Death, Burial* and His Resurrection who was in charge. A spotless lamb led to His slaughter.

I also find it interesting that the Jewish leadership had a higher regard for tradition than prophecy, than even humanity, and wished to maintain their pious appearance before men and would not enter among the gentiles in *Pilate's* residence.

To engage with gentiles before the passover would make them unclean, yet, in the madness of their minds the murder of *Jesus The Christ* would do nothing to their self proclaimed religiosity.

If they truly didn't feel they had the right to carry out the death penalty on Jesus, Pilate himself gave them the authority. Speaking directly to the Jewish leaders:

John 19:6b (Slide 5)

Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him."

All by the predetermined plan of God!!

John 18:33-39 (Slide 6)

33 Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?" 35 Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? (Slide 7) Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, (Slide 8) My kingdom is not of this realm." 37 Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a

king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. (Slide 9) Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." 38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, "I find no guilt in Him. (Slide 10) 39 But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover; do you wish then that I release for you the King of the Jews?" 40 So they cried out again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas." Now Barabbas was a robber.

Luke 23:19, which we have mentioned before, tells us that *Barabbas* was a convicted *insurrectionist* and *murderer*.

As we go further into the study of the *Gospel of John* we will see the wicked mindset of the Jewish leadership and those they have ***"stirred"*** up against Jesus as they will shout out and over Pilate; ***"Crucify Him, Crucify Him!!"***

Keep in mind who is waiting outside the ***"Praetorium,"*** the chief priests and elders of the people. Those that represented religion.

Pilate represented secular authority and they thought to keep their conscience clear they needed the secular government to condemn Jesus and to put Him to death.

However, it just doesn't work that way. We don't have to directly participate in a particular sin to be just as guilty as those who do!!

Those in **Romans 1** whom God gave over to a "*debased mind*" practiced all the debauchery he lists in the last paragraph of that chapter and he says that they approve and likely encouraged others to sin with that approval:

Romans 1:32 (Slide 11)

who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Giving hearty approval of a lifestyle of sin creates the same guilt as engagement in that sin. You don't have to participate in homosexuality but will be just as guilty of it by giving your approval!!

Peter will tell the Jews in **Acts 2** that despite Jesus' crucifixion being carried out by the Romans, that they truly are the ones who crucified Him.

God didn't destroy everyone during the days of Noah solely because of the evil that man did, *it was that man's mind was constantly on evil!*

The ***Praetorium***: (Slide 12)

The KJV translates ***Praetorium*** as the “***hall of justice.***” This is thought to be the governor’s headquarters. “Smith’s Bible Dictionary” states that this was Pilate's residence when he visited Jerusalem.

This gives us a picture as to the climate that the Jews were living under at the time. I believe this is important for our understanding when it comes to the average Jewish citizen and what their expectations were.

They were under Roman rule.

They had failed leadership.

They were looking for a leader, the Messiah.

They were hopeful that as a nation they would rise up again independent, free, and relevant.

At one time, they were convinced that Jesus was the one they were looking for to establish the Jewish Nation once again as a Nation of prominence. In fact, they were so sure Jesus was the one that they were going to forcibly make Him their King.

In **John 6**, Jesus performed the miracle of feeding the 5,000 with ***five barley loaves and two fish*** supplied by a young boy. After all 5,000 had eaten and were full they still gathered together *12 baskets full of fragments* from the *barley loaves*.

I remember a lady in the church many years ago saying that Jesus would indeed validate from this incident the statement; *"waste not want not."* and if you went to her house for a meal, if you put it on your plate, you better for sure eat it or you would hear about it.

We are often so amazed about this miraculous occurrence and well we should be, but we miss what happens afterward and what Jesus says;

John 6:14-15 (Slide 13)

14 Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

(Slide 14) ***15 So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.***

They were going to forcibly make Him king. One thing we know for certain from the scriptures is that you can't forcibly make Jesus do anything. *Not even die on a cross!!*

They were looking for a King!

John doesn't record what we have come to know as Jesus' *"Triumphal Entry"* into Jerusalem, but what the Jewish people do further illustrates their desire and hope resting in a king.

His entry into Jerusalem on the back of a “colt” was to fulfill prophecy and the Bible also records the reaction, their hopes and feelings, of the Jewish people as they lay out their clothes and branches on the road, paying tribute to who they still envisioned would be king.

Their hopes and dreams of the nation of Israel rising again was in Jesus who was *Triumphantly* entering the city before their very eyes. Their emotional expectation is captured in:

Matthew 21:9-11 (Slide 15)

9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’

Hosanna in the highest!”

(Slide 16) ***10 And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?”***

11 So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”

(Slide 17) The word “***moved***” in verse 10, sometimes translated “***stirred***,” comes from the Greek word “seismos” which is associated with how we measure the intensity of an earthquake.

This word emphasizes the fact that the whole city was “moved” by the appearance of Jesus coming into Jerusalem to establish what they thought was an earthly Kingdom.

But as is the case even for most of the Jewish population today they do not understand prophecy, nor grasp the concept of what *Kingdom* He has established.

Daniel 2:44 (Slide 18)

In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

There will be no other Kingdom!

You have to wonder if the majority of the Jewish population today would accept Jesus as King of a Divine Kingdom, the church, wouldn't there likely have been peace through the ages in the middle east?

Just as likely, many of these very same people from **Matthew 21**, were “***stirred***” by the Jewish leadership into a *fever pitch* which was fueled by their fallen anticipation of a *Messiah* and by utter disappointment to cry out; “***Crucify Him, Crucify Him!***”

Many of these same people, without understanding of His truth, so disappointed to remain under Roman rule and to once again have their hopes dashed as “*Nation*” would soon stand along the path in which Jesus would carry His own *Cross* to be *Crucified*.

Understanding the emotional let down of the average Jewish citizen helps us derive in our mind an accurate description of the look on their faces as Jesus passes by them carrying that cross on His back.

Here yet today, their ancestors have often been held under the rule of others still waiting on their Messiah.

And it just will not happen. There will be no other Kingdom!

Jeremiah 22:30 (Slide 19)

Thus says the LORD:

‘Write this man down as childless,

A man who shall not prosper in his days;

(Slide 20) ***For none of his descendants shall prosper,***

Sitting on the throne of David,

And ruling anymore in Judah.”

Again Jesus says:

"My Kingdom is not of this World"

Invitation

So many people are looking for something that the True church cannot offer. Many are looking for things that appeal to the flesh, (much like the Jews seeking someone that appealed to them as a king), when what is offered by the church Jesus built should appeal to the Spirit and soul of a person.

That is what is offered, the Simple, Plain, Gospel story of Jesus who died for all of man. Hear and accept Jesus as your Savior and be baptized for the remission of sin and He will add you to the Kingdom that is not of this World!!

If you are a child of God but need the prayers of your Brethren for whatever reason, please let us know.

We would be Happy to Assist you.

Reading:

Matthew 26:57-68

57 Those who had seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were gathered together. 58 But Peter was following Him at a distance as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and

entered in, and sat down with the officers to see the outcome.

59 Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put Him to death. 60 They did not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward. But later on two came forward, 61 and said, "This man stated, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.'" 62 The high priest stood up and said to Him, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?" 63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God." 64 Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

65 Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy; 66 what do you think?" They answered, "He deserves death!"

67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him, 68 and said, "Prophecy to us, You Christ; who is the one who hit You?"

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