



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The King of Truth Witnesses to His Earthly King

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David Andersen / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

Matthew 27:11-14

“Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him, saying, ‘Are You the King of the Jews?’ And Jesus said to him, ‘It is as you say.’ 12) And while He was being accused by the chief priests and the elders, He made no answer. 13) Then Pilate said to Him, ‘Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?’ 14) And He did not answer him with regard to even a single charge, so that the governor was quite amazed.” (NASB)

“IN THE EYES OF HIS ENEMIES, JESUS CANNOT POSSIBLY BE A KING IF HE IS UNDERGOING SUCH TREATMENT, YET IT IS PRECISELY THESE THINGS THAT WILL SECURE HIS KINGDOM. BY HIS DEATH THE KINGDOM OF EVIL AND DEATH WILL ITSELF BE OVERTHROWN. JESUS WILL HEREBY SECURE FOR HIMSELF ‘ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH’ (MATT. 28:18).” MARK ROSS

Why is Jesus brought before His Governor? What were the false accusations presented by these religious leaders? Does Pilate discern the wickedness of the Jewish leaders? What does Jesus say that convinces Pilate that He is completely innocent? Why is Jesus silent in the midst of so many accusations? What is it in this trial of Jesus that amazes the Governor so much?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- JANUARY 26: MATTHEW 27:15-22 *WHAT SHALL I DO WITH JESUS?*
- FEBRUARY 2: MATTHEW 27:22-26 *WHEN THE POPULACE DEMANDS LEGAL MURDER!*

Pontius Pilate had been called upon early in the morning to decide a case he wanted to escape. Nevertheless, he had to comply with these Jewish leaders because he was politically compelled to keep the peace in Jerusalem, and particularly at the time of the Passover when the city was packed with people. Pilate was a Spaniard, having risen from slavery under Germanicus in the wars on the Rhine,

to his position as the sixth governor of Judea by marrying Claudia Procula, a granddaughter of the Emperor Augustus. The marriage was a boost to his career but a disgrace morally. Julia, Claudia’s mother, was well known for her flagrant immorality in Rome, where immorality was the norm, and her daughter was just like her. Pilate had arisen to this relatively minor post four years earlier in A.D. 26 and was surrounded by the three sons of the former king, Herod the Great. Already, he had infuriated the Jews four times: 1) He had flagrantly angered the Jews by sneaking ensigns into Jerusalem with an image of Caesar. The Jews were willing to be killed rather than have the images remain in Jerusalem, so he yielded and ordered the images removed. 2) After he brought shields with inscriptions, rather than images on them, into Jerusalem, he had refused the entreaties of the people until he received orders from the Emperor to remove them. 3) He built a fifty mile aqueduct with money taken from the temple treasury and then had killed numerous Jews who had protested. 4) While some Galileans were offering sacrifices in the temple, he killed them, mingling their blood with their sacrifices (Luke 13:1). Another complaint by the Jews could cost Pontius Pilate his job!

“AS FAR AS THE TRIAL OF JESUS IS CONCERNED, AT LEAST IN ITS OPENING STAGES, NO ONE COULD HAVE CONDUCTED IT WITH GREATER ATTENTION OR INTEGRITY. PILATE SEEMS TO HAVE UNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS GOING ON, RECOGNIZED THAT JESUS WAS INNOCENT, AND USED EVERY MEANS HE COULD THINK OF TO GET HIM ACQUITTED AND DISCHARGED.” JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE

I. THE STATEMENTS OF THE KING MT. 27:11
The verb that is used for “stood” is a passive and it literally means “to place,” so Jesus actually “was placed before Pilate.” It is astounding how these wicked religious

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 12:00NOON –BIBLE STUDY – WYTESTONE PLAZA AT 8TH & MAIN 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

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leaders respond when Pilate asks them for the formal charges they were bringing against Jesus. They say, *“If this Man were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you”* (John 18:30). These arrogant leaders expect Pilate to trust them and just rubber stamp their verdict of death without any form of legal proceedings! He reminds them that such unlawful practices belong in their court, not his, *“Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law”* (Jn. 18:31). They respond by telling Pilate what kind of verdict they expect and reminding him that he alone can give this verdict effectively, *“We are not permitted to put anyone to death.”* His own religious leaders had initially charged Him with *“blasphemy”* in their mock trials, but now they present to Pilate political accusations, *“We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is Christ a King. And Pilate asked Him, saying, ‘Are You the King of the Jews? And He answered him and said, ‘It is as you say’”* (Luke 23:2-3). John gives greater detail: *“Jesus answered, ‘Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?’ Pilate answered, ‘I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You up to me; what have You done?’ Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.’ Pilate therefore 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 bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’ Pilate said to Him, ‘What is truth?’ And when he said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, ‘I find no guilt in Him”* (18:34-38). In personal interrogation, Pilate found that he was on trial before Jesus Christ and his verdict was, he found no fault in this King of truth!

“I CHARGE YOU IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD, WHO GIVES LIFE TO ALL THINGS, AND OF CHRIST JESUS, WHO TESTIFIED THE GOOD CONFESSION BEFORE PONTIUS PILATE, THAT YOU KEEP THE COMMANDMENT WITHOUT STAIN OR REPROACH UNTIL THE APPEARING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.” I TIMOTHY 6:13-14

II. THE SILENCE OF THE KING MT. 27:12

While the present tense points out that the chief priests and elders continued to accuse Jesus Christ, He does not answer them. Not only do the Jewish leader’s lies not deserve to be dignified with an answer, Jesus remembers His calling and purpose as the *“Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world,”* and in silence He quietly fulfills the prophecy made over five hundred years earlier.

“HE WAS OPPRESSED AND HE WAS AFFLICTED, YET HE DID NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH; LIKE A LAMB THAT IS LED TO THE SLAUGHTER, AND LIKE A SHEEP THAT IS SILENT BEFORE ITS SHEARERS, SO HE DID NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH.”
ISAIAH 53:7

III. THE SURRENDER OF THE KING MT. 27:13-14

Pilate is watching something he had never seen before, Jesus was allowing His accusers to continue a one sided debate. Everyone knew that the goal of the accusations is His death, yet Jesus does nothing to defend Himself! Pilate, who comes to His defense on three occasions by declaring Jesus is innocent, tries to persuade Jesus to respond to these perjurers’ false claims. *“Then Pilate said to Him, ‘Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?’ And He did not answer him with regard to even a single charge, so that the governor was quite amazed.”* The surrender of Christ to the brutal humiliation of the cross amazed His earthly king, but not enough to make Pilate turn from his sin and choose to stand for the King of truth!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) What are the seeds you are sowing today that will multiply in the harvest of your leadership tomorrow?
- 2) Do you, as Pilate, initially stand for truth but finally cave in to political pressure in time of crisis?
- 3) Are you just amazed at Jesus or have you received the King of Truth as your Lord and Savior?