



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

When the Populace Demands Legal Murder!

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Matthew 27:22-26

“Pilate said to them, ‘Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?’ They all said, ‘Let Him be crucified!’ 23) And he said, ‘Why, what evil has He done?’ But they kept shouting all the more, saying, ‘Let Him be crucified!’ 24) And when Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the multitude, saying, ‘I am innocent of this Man’s blood; see to that yourselves.’ 25) And all the people answered and said, ‘His blood be on us and on our children!’ 26) Then he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he delivered Him to be crucified.” (NASB)

“HE WHO HAS POWER TO PREVENT A WRONG IS GUILTY OF THE ACT IF HE PERMITS OTHERS TO DO IT, EVEN THOUGH HE DOES NOT ACTUALLY COMMIT IT HIMSELF.”

CHARLES SPURGEON

What would cause a crowd of very religious people to want to embrace a murderer while seeking to murder one whom they know is innocent? Are those who want to murder the innocent even willing to discuss the innocence of the victim? Was Pilate released from the guilt of innocent blood just because he washed his hands? Were those who demanded the killing of the innocent at all ashamed? As a political leader, responsible to uphold the law, did Pilate betray Jesus to His enemies?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- FEBRUARY 9: MATTHEW 27:27-31 *MOCKING THE KING OF KINGS!*
- FEBRUARY 16: MATTHEW 27:32-37 *THE CRUCIFIXION OF THE ETERNAL KING!*

There was never a person more innocent than Jesus Christ! The proofs of His innocence are many: **1)** He was arrested without any accusation or charges presented (Mt. 26:47-57); **2)** After demonstrating His power (Jn. 18:6), Jesus allowed His arrest to fulfill Scripture (Mt. 26:56); **3)** Annas tried to get Christ to incriminate Himself (Jn. 18:19-24); **4)** The Jewish rulers continually sought false testimony against Jesus with many false witnesses (Mt. 26:59); **5)** the verdict had been chosen before the trial began (Mt. 26:59); **6)** The false witnesses were never tried their perjury; **7)** Jesus’ truthful words that He was “*Christ, the Son of God*” was used for self incrimination and treated as blasphemy (Mt. 26:63-65); **8)** They ignore the law requiring two witnesses in order to render a death verdict (Deut. 17:6) **9)** After rendering the death verdict, the judges over this unlawful and unjust trial, attack the victim of their hatred (Mt. 26:66-67); **10)** Judas confesses that he had betrayed “*innocent blood*” (Mt. 27:4); **11)** All call the field purchased with Judas’ blood money “*the field of blood*” (Mt. 27:8); **12)** The rulers are initially unwilling to present any charges against Jesus before Pilate, expecting him to rubber stamp their death verdict (Jn. 18:30); **13)** Pilate questions Jesus and finds Him innocent (Jn. 18:34-38); **14)** Pilate rebuked the Jewish rulers for their charges stating that both he and Herod had found no guilt in Him and that he planned to release Him (Lk:23:13-15); **15)** Pilate’s wife said Jesus was a “*righteous man*” (Mt. 27:19); **16)** Pilate hoped to have the people appropriately release Jesus by pitting the worst against Him; **17-19)** When the people refuse to release Jesus, Pilate demands a valid charge three times (Lk. 23:17-22); **20-22)** After the scourging, Pilate states twice, “*I find no guilt in Him,*” and after questioning Him, again tries to release Him (Jn. 18:4, 6, 12). Even a newborn baby is less innocent than Jesus Christ because they have a sin nature which was absent from the King of Truth through His virgin birth!

“BY OPPRESSION AND JUDGMENT HE WAS TAKEN AWAY”
ISAIAH 53:8

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

When the Populace Demands Legal Murder!

I. THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE MT. 27:22-23

Through an exemption from justice, the people were given the right to choose even murders for release at Passover each year. Only on this one occasion are we aware of Pilate giving the Jewish people the right to choose the legal murder of one they all knew was absolutely innocent! Pilate, afraid to oppose the leaders of the nation lest they remove him from office, decided to trust the people to be more just and courageous than himself. So he offered for release that year only two: a murderer – Barabbas and their perfect Messiah – Jesus, unwittingly presented as if He were a convicted criminal, equally deserving of death. The murderous leaders had little difficulty persuading the people to deny their consciences and choose Barabbas. Pilate is astounded, suddenly realizing that his easy out had become a possible trap of injustice paving the way to legal murder. So he asks, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” The king is horrified at their unanimous command, “They all said, ‘Let Him be crucified!’” Pilate tries to reverse the decision, “And he said, ‘Why, what evil has He done?’ But they kept shouting all the more, saying, ‘Let Him be crucified!’” The loud shouts of the bloodthirsty leaders are now matched by all the people around them in a continuous violent chant “Let Him be crucified!”

“THE MULTITUDE CLEARLY WANTED BLOOD, NOT JUSTICE, AND EVEN TO THE HARDENED, PAGAN MIND OF PILATE THEIR VICIOUS RESPOSE MUST HAVE BEEN BLOOD CHILLING.” JOHN MACARTHUR

II. RESPONSIBILITY OF INNOCENT BLOOD MT. 27:24-25

The heathen king is thinking as fast as he can to escape involvement in their frenzied cries for murder and also find a way to awaken the consciences of these tyrannical

religious leaders and fanatical followers committing the unthinkable in demanding the murder of their Messiah! The innocence of their victim was completely irrelevant to them! Any concern for reason, justice or truth was lost in their ultimate hate crime! Pilate must have remembered their ritual regarding an unsolved murder case (Deut. 21:1-9). The leaders of the nearest city would kill a heifer and wash their hands over it saying, “*Our hands have not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see it. Forgive Thy people Israel whom Thou hast redeemed, O Lord, and do not place the guilt of innocent blood in the midst of Thy people Israel.*” So, “*when Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the multitude, saying, ‘I am innocent of this Man’s blood; see to that yourselves.’*” The final phrase, “*see to that yourselves,*” is virtually identical to the words the priests had cast at Judas in the temple. Yet his guilt was not removed even though the clamoring throng was eager to embrace it. “*And all the people, answering said, ‘His blood be upon us and on our children!’*” Jesus had already exposed their deceitful satanic motivations in John 8:44.

**“PILATE WAS WEAK NOW BECAUSE HE HAD FORMERLY BEEN WICKED. LIKE MANY A POLITICIAN, HIS RECORD WAS IN THE WAY OF HIS CONSCIENCE.”
JOHN BROADUS**

III. REJECTION BY LEGAL MURDER MT. 27:20-22

After giving the verdict that Jesus was innocent at least five times, Pilate fears the cry for his job, “*If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar*” (Jn. 18:12). They finally reject their King with the ultimate blasphemy, “*We have no king but Caesar*” (Jn. 18:15). Pilate releases Barabbas and “*after having Jesus scourged,*” literally “*betrayed*” “*Him to be crucified.*” The scourging would have utterly mutilated His back, tearing his flesh to a bloody pulp before He endured the agony of the cross!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Who is responsible for the blood of our innocents when they are rejected by the right to choose legal murder?
- 2) Do you make your decisions dependent upon the pressures of the people or your conscience?
- 3) What will you do with Jesus who is called the Christ?