

John 19:1-22: The Great Exchange II: On The Cross.

I. (1-16) Jesus scourged, Crowned And Mocked.

Pilate already declared Jesus "not guilty," so to scourge Him now was a gross injustice.

i. Scourging

Scourging was done as punishment, as a way to extract confession and to weaken the victim so he would die more quickly on the cross. Scourging would leave the back skin torn and bleeding.

ii. Crown of thorns and purple robe.

Genesis 3:18 - *Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.*

In Botany, thorns are stunted branches; they bud out as any branch would but growth stops, leaving a sharp end.

Thorns are a result of the curse of sin; Jesus wore the crown to undo the curse upon the trees (much as they were "king-mocking").

For the third time, Pilate pronounces Jesus innocent of all charges.

From accusing Him of the crime of being "The King Of The Jews" now they accuse Him of making Himself equal with God, blasphemy.

When Pilate learned the true nature of the charge, instead of being angry with the Jews, he was more afraid of Jesus than ever. He believed that He had real power; but Jesus makes it plain: **You could have no power at all against Me unless it have been given you from above.**

Pilate gives into the pressure and sentences Jesus to death. Pilate fully knew what was right and just, but he chose wrong so that he might keep his job and manner of life.

"You may do today exactly what Pilate did. He is simply an example of a man who lacks decision of character, who does not possess the courage of his convictions, who tries to compromise with wrong, who disobeys conscience through fear of personal loss." (Erdman)

The multitude wanted a political Messiah to deliver them from Caesar's oppression, but they reject Jesus and embrace the Roman Emperor, **Caesar**.

II. (17-22) Jesus Is Crucified.

Crucifixion was meant to punish, humiliate and warn possible offenders about the consequences of rebelling against Rome.

Jesus carried His own instrument of death; it's like carrying a firing squad gun to be shot or rolling one's own electric wheel chair to execution.

The crime of the crucified offender would be written on their cross, Jesus's crime, "The King Of The Jews." The Jewish leaders felt that the inscription should be in form of a claim, not a reality. That's when Pilate had the courage to stand up against Jewish rulers.

Isaiah 53:3-7 - *He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.*

Galatians 2:20 - *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 - *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*