



## *The Gory, Glory Acts of Man Against a God that Loves Them!*

*The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the Son of God*  
**John 19, Bible Study #49—Written and Taught by Gerald Cumby**

***John 19:1-4, So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck Him with their hands. Pilate then went out again, and said to them, “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him.”***

**The following is an account of the twisted minds of man.** Lies, deceit, jealousy, hate, murder, killing of the innocent (much like abortion)—all to satisfy a hatred for the God/man who could change hearts and minds with his words of truth.

The words in a movie not long ago stated that **“You (The people) can’t handle the truth.”** Although it was under totally different circumstances, Jesus was speaking to the religious leaders and their followers, “You can’t handle the truth!”

**Scourging had three purposes.** It was used to punish prisoners, and to gain confessions of crimes from prisoners. Also, in cases of crucifixion scourging was used to weaken the victim so he would die more quickly on the cross. Pilate hoped that this punishment of his prisoner would satisfy the crowd. Of course, history and God’s plan for mankind’s salvation would not be possible without fulfillment of man’s gory plan to kill the King of Glory.

- **Everything about this was intended to humiliate Jesus.** The Jewish rulers had already mocked Jesus as the Messiah ([Matthew 26:67-68](#)). Now the Roman powers mocked him as king.
- **Kings wear crowns, but not crowns of torture.** The specific thorn-bushes of this region have long, hard, sharp thorns. This was a crown that cut, pierced, and bloodied the head of the King who wore it.

***John 19:5-6, Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, “Behold the Man!” Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him.”***

- Pilate presented Jesus to the crowd as One beaten and mocked, with blood, sweat, and spit all over His body. Perhaps Pilate hoped the sad sight would make the crowd feel sorry for Jesus.
- Whatever Pilate's intention, the vision of Jesus failed to arouse in the hearts of the multitude any pity for Him, and they clamored for His death.
- Some pity may have stirred in the crowd, but the priests and their immediate dependents silenced it by their yell of fresh hate at the sight of the prisoner.
- The religious leaders immediately screamed "**Crucify Him, crucify Him!**" This was pure hatred, man's hatred of God.

**John 19:7-9, The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God." Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.**

- The Jewish leaders wanted Him dead not because He claimed to be King of the Jews, but because He claimed to be God, the unique **Son of God**.
- Could it be Pilate was afraid because he realized that it could be true that the Man before him was more than a man. He evidently had heard of Jesus and the miracles that had been spoken about within the confines of the community he was in charge.
- Jesus already told Pilate that He was King of a kingdom not of this world ([John 18:36](#)); Jesus already said where He was from. Therefore, **Jesus gave him no answer**.

**John 19:10-11, Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."**

- Pilate couldn't believe that Jesus would not speak to defend Himself. He couldn't believe that Jesus would not beg for His life as many others had done. Pilate also couldn't believe that Jesus was not awed and intimidated by the representative of Rome who judged Him.
- The general silence of Jesus before His accusers and judges fulfilled the prophecy of [Isaiah 53:7](#): "And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth."
- The same man who claimed to have all power tried to wash his hands of the decision ([Matthew 27:24](#)) claiming, "I didn't really want to do this."
- Jesus understood that Pilate had power; He simply insisted that this power was granted by God and not inherent in Pilate or Rome.
- Jesus didn't say Pilate was without **sin**; simply that the religious leaders were guilty of **greater sin**. (The religious leaders had read the Scriptures about the coming Messiah). Jesus specifically said and did...fulfill the Scriptures prophesying His birth.

**When we know the truth and do not yield to the truth (mind and action), our sin will be counted as blasphemy and failure to act in accordance with God's Word.**

**John 19:12-13, From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar." When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.**

- **We sense panic in the Roman governor.** The panic was greater when his wife told him to let the accused free because of a dream she had ([Matthew 27:19-20](#)). **He knew this innocent Man, a Man not like any other prisoner he had seen before, should be set free – yet he felt the full force of the crowd and religious leaders demanding His crucifixion.**  
**Peer pressure...No, he was afraid he would lose his position of authority if he let Jesus go.**
- **Pilate held his position only by relationship.** Pilate would be greatly concerned that the relationship was damaged. The religious leaders and the crowd knew Pilate's weak point and they pressed upon it.

**John 19:14-16, Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away.**

**Behold your King:**

- Pilate offered this sacrificial Lamb before the people for their inspection. He may have meant to mock Jesus and the crowd, presenting Jesus as a beaten, bloodied Man as their King.
- The crowd saw Jesus in all His misery and dignity and responded by screaming, Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!

**We have no king but Caesar!** Driven by hate, they deliberately disown their Messianic hope, and repudiate their national glory.

**Then he delivered Him to be crucified.**

**It appeared that Jesus was on trial before Pilate, but in an even greater sense Pilate was on trial before Jesus. Pilate failed his test. In fear of the crowd, he sent a Man he knew to be innocent to a tortured death.**

**"You can't take fame and fortune with you.  
Choose Everlasting Life in Lieu of Never-lasting life."**