

The Gospel of John: That You May Believe Delivered over for Death

John 19:1-16

Sunday, December 3, 2017

Introduction

As we move from John 18 to 19 the scene remains the same. It's a night in which Jesus is going from court to court, from official to official. The Jewish leaders are eager to find someone who will convict Jesus and punish Him.

As we consider this wild night the question could be asked, *who was responsible for sending Jesus to the cross?* Considering all who are involved it's a big question and the answer is not simple. It's a question that is best answered in two parts: Jesus was sent to the cross by to both the actions of wicked men and the sovereign will and plan of God (Acts 3:13-15; 2:22-24).

Passage Summary: This is a story of how God used the intentions of wicked men and their sinful choices to accomplish His plan of salvation, so that other wicked men, namely you and I, can be saved.

Context

- As John 18 comes to an end Jesus is before Pilate, the Jews are seeking a conviction, but Pilate doesn't see Jesus as deserving a punishment. His answer is to offer an alternative – He will release Jesus based on a Passover tradition of pardon, but the Jews choose Barabbas instead.
- As John 19 begins Pilate is still trying to find a way to release Jesus. In this text we see three different times that Pilate tries to free Jesus, but each time the Jews stand in the way.

Pilate's Attempts to Appease the Crowd and Release Jesus

Attempt One: Punish and Release (19:1-5)

- Pilate desired to release Jesus, but he had to appease the crowd that was calling for Jesus's head. His first effort at compromise was to release Jesus through pardon, when that failed he decided to punish Jesus to an extent that the crowd would be appeased and accept a release (Luke 23:13-22).
- Jesus sent Jesus to be flogged and the Romans soldiers went as step further. They dressed Jesus as a king, complete with a crown of thorns, and mocked Him.
- After Jesus was beaten and mocked Pilate presented Him to the crowd saying, "behold the man," as if to say, this is just a man, not a king. But the crowd was not satisfied; they continued to call for Jesus's death.

Attempt Two: Transfer of Execution (19:6-7)

- When the pardon wasn't sufficient for the crowd, and a beating wasn't enough, Pilate opted for another option: to transfer the right to execute back to the Jews. The right to execute belonged to the Romans, but Pilate offered it to the Jews.
- The Jews don't want to execute Jesus, they want the Romans to and so they come back to Pilate with another accusation. He hasn't broken a Roman law, but He has broken a Jewish law, blasphemy – they are calling on Pilate to enact the punishment required by their law (Leviticus 24:16).

Attempt Three: Release Him for Fear of the Consequences (19:8-12)

- When the Jews tell Pilate that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God they hoped this would convince Him to punish, but it had a different result. The thought that Jesus may be a god made Pilate afraid and He tried all the more to release Him.
- In order to gain some clarity into the situation Pilate goes to Jesus to find out more about His origin, but Jesus doesn't answer. The silence angers Pilate and leads to a discussion of authority.
- As Pilate tried to pull rank Jesus reveals the true authority, God above. While this story is full of the wicked plans of men, here we are reminded that all of this is according to the plan and will of God (Acts 4:27-28).

The Crowd Convinces Pilate – Jesus is Given over to be Crucified (19:13-16)

- Out of fear Pilate again seeks to release Jesus, but the Jews come at him from another angle – one he cannot ignore. They remind him that siding with Jesus, an accused revolutionary, puts Pilate at odds with the Emperor of Rome, Caesar.
- The one thing Pilate feared more than a possible curse from a potential god was a certain punishment from proven authority, so He sends Jesus to be crucified.

Application

- We must never fail to recognize the depth and the power of our sin nature. This story reveals deceitfulness of sin and the potential wickedness of our own hearts.
- We must remember that although we weren't there shouting crucify, it was because of our sins that the cross was necessary. This story should cause us shame for our sin, and gratitude for what God did.
- The God of all creation came to earth and allowed Himself to be mocked, and killed for us. Our lives should be lived, everyday, in worship of Him.