

## Behold the Man!

Swan Creek Baptist Church - Pastor Chris Gowen 7/16/2023

John 18:39-19:7

We are looking at the Trial of Jesus as he stands before the governor, Pontius Pilate. Pilate represented the Roman government by keeping the peace, and putting away all troublemakers who were believed to be a threat to Rome. Pilate meets Jesus face to face. He concluded – Jesus was an innocent man. That wasn't the sentiment of the Jewish leaders. They wanted Jesus "gone".

The Jewish leaders had been plotting for the death of Jesus for a long time. Now, because it was the "appointed hour", God allowed Judas Iscariot to go through with betraying our Lord. God also allowed the high priest, Caiaphas, to hand Jesus over to Pilate. Only the Roman government could grant the death sentence. That's why the Jewish leaders brought Jesus to Pilate.

We read in **John 18:28** "*Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters*" or to the *Praetorium* as it's called.

Pilate knew the real reason why the Jewish leaders delivered Jesus to him. He knew it was for envy. It wasn't for a crime worthy of death. He knew they hated Jesus. The only reason why Jesus was brought to Pilate was to be crucified. A fair trial wasn't their main concern. This was clearly a blood-thirsty lynch mob screaming for our Lord's crucifixion.

Pilate says something that's very important for everyone to hear. Not much good came from his mouth, but even God can use a ruthless, spineless ruler like Pilate for his own purpose. **Notice in chapter 19:5**

*So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"*

**Behold the man!** The greatest display of the glory of God is the Lord Jesus Christ. By all appearances, Jesus didn't have the looks that speaks of someone glorious and majestic. It's as the prophet Isaiah told us, *he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him (Isaiah 53:2) .... to the World... he is nothing desirable....*

- Yet, for the dry and thirsty, Jesus is a wondrous fountain of living water to behold.
- For the tired and weary, and the heavy-hearted, Jesus is the great Shepherd to behold.
- For the befriended who's lonely, Jesus is the Best Friend to behold.

Now..The crowd is growing around the palace of Pilate. and Pilate says, **Behold the man!**

But there's seems to be nothing appealing and attractive for people to look upon Jesus. The Hosannas have long quietened down. The Miracles and good deeds of the Master have quickly been forgotten.

Even though Pilate didn't know the significance of his statement over 2000 years ago, We must Today, in the year 2023 ...BEHOLD the MAN! that is, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! **There are six pictures for us to "behold"**

First, **BEHOLD** Him as...

## I. **The Rejected Man** 18:39-40

It was a standing custom to release a criminal during Passover. Pilate was hoping they would ask for Jesus to be released. He already cleared Jesus of any wrong-doing.

Barrabas was the people's choice. Even though he was a robber. And he's guilty of other crimes. Matthew 27:16 "a notorious prisoner" He wasn't arrested for jay walking. Mark 15:7 "murderer" "involved in the insurrection...the overthrow of Roman rule..." Today, you would say he was a terrorist. Pilate had no pleasure in releasing Barrabas. Just wait til Tiberias Caesar, the Roman emperor, hears of this. For Pilate this could definitely cost him his position by releasing such a dangerous criminal back into society.

DO YOU WANT ME TO RELEASE TO YOU....JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS?

No! they wanted Barrabas.... a notorious criminal to be released into the streets.

THEY REJECTED JESUS.

*"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord's doing,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"*

Jesus was that stone rejected. **Matthew 21:42 Psalm 118:22**

The prophet Isaiah again tells us *"He was despised and rejected by men."*  
**Isaiah 53:3**

Jesus was rejected by the **chief priest**, the Sadducees, Pharisees all the Jewish leaders.

Jesus was rejected by **his own**. **John 1:11** *He came unto his own, his own received him not.*

Jesus was rejected by the **very people** He came to heal, and to save.

Jesus was rejected by **his disciples** who fled the scene, and even like Peter who denied knowing him; and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.

Jesus was rejected by the **Roman soldiers** who saw him to be a common criminal to mock, and torture.

Jesus was rejected by **God His Father...** on the cross, Jesus said, *"My God, My God why have you forsaken me."*

**Jesus was rejected that we might be accepted.** He became sin for us, that we might have His righteousness. That we might be accepted in the beloved.

St. Francis' prayer:

- He experienced **hate**, that we might know **love**.
- He suffered **despair**, that we might know **hope**.
- He endured the **darkness**, that we might walk in the **light**.
- He experienced **infinite sorrow**, that we might know **joy**.

Jesus was rejected so we don't have to be.

Behold the REJECTED MAN.

## **II. The Tortured Man** 19:1 flogged him, or scourged him (KJV)

The flogging, or scourging.... in the ESV it seems like Pilate did the flogging, but more like the NASB... Pilate had him flogged indicating soldiers carried it out.

**The flogging was torturous.** The victim was stripped and tied to a post. He was beaten by several torturers. How long? It continued until the soldiers were exhausted, or until the commanding officer stopped it. Or it stopped when the victim died which was not uncommon. The Jews only allowed for 40 lashes, and stopped at 39 lashes. The Romans, however, did not follow Jewish procedures in scourging their victims.

The **instrument** was a short wooden handle with several leather thongs attached to it. At the ends of the thongs were jagged pieces of bone or metal.

BEHOLD the MAN! the Tortured man! Why? He could have stopped it. He could have called out for 12 legion of angels to rescue him. He took the beatings for us.

By his stripes we are healed.... **the greatest healing is the healing of the sinner's soul.** He took our punishment, so we don't have to die and spend eternity in hell forever paying for our sins. He took upon himself the Torture meant for us. Don't let anyone deceive you into thinking hell is an okay place to be. **Hell is pure, unadulterated, holy torture**....it doesn't last for a few seconds....it last for all eternity. Jesus Experienced HELL on that CROSS !

## **III. The Mocked Man** 19:2-3

The crown of thorns was to **humiliate Jesus** and bring **more pain**. The thorns were 12 inches long, and it was added torture to already a beaten down man. The soldiers played foolish games by pretending Jesus was a king. They place the crown of thorns on his head. They put a purple robe on him, which was probably a soldier's cloak. This was the color of vestures worn by a king.

The soldier mocked Jesus by standing in front of him, and bowing down and saying "Hail, King of the Jews". They would get up and then strike him on the face.

### Isaiah 50:6

I gave My back to those who strike Me,  
And My cheeks to those who pull out My beard;  
I did not hide My face from insults and spitting.

### IV. The Sinless Man 19:4-5

"I find no guilt in him"

Pilate could not "pin" a sin on Jesus. He couldn't find fault in Jesus.

Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. **Hebrews 4:15**

You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and **in Him there is no sin.**  
**1John 3:5**

**Behold the Man - the Sinless Man... the Perfect Man....** R.C. Sproul, commentary  
*John*

*When Pilate said, 'Behold the Man,' the people in the crowd should have looked on Him and said, 'Yes, here is man as God intended him to be, as God designed him to be, man with no fault in Him.'*"

But look there in v.5 "so Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man"

JESUS came out.... look what he's wearing on his head.... look what's draped around his shoulders. What a sight to behold! Couldn't Pilate at least make him presentable?

Couldn't he at least take away that despicable crown of thorns and put on a crown with jewels, with diamonds, and gold?

Couldn't Pilate made him wear something more in fashion rather than a purple robe.

He looks ridiculous....who would have such a king as this.???

But BEHOLD the MAN... the sinless man... the kind of man God said, "**this is my Son in Whom I am well pleased.**" **Here is what a man should really be.**

**And because he is sinless....** He can make us to be the kind of person we should be.

This is what God did....

**2Cor. 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## V. The Crucified Man 19:6

Crucify Him! Crucify Him! That's the cry of the Jewish leaders....

Pilate asked "what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" **Matthew 27:22-23**

Let him be crucified. Why? what evil has he done? **but they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified."**

**Luke 23:20** they kept shouting, crucify, crucify him. Pilate tried to release Jesus. What evil has he done? they were urgent in their demands that he be crucified..... their voices prevailed....

WAS Jesus the Crucified Man? He was crucified on the cross. Many do not believe Jesus died on the cross.

For example - if you are a Muslim - you are taught differently.

The Koran....., "And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but [another] was made to resemble him to them."<sup>1</sup>

Early Gnostic writings make claims that Simon of Cyrene switched places with Jesus, so it was really Simon who was crucified. In the Gnostic Apocalypse of Peter there is someone else who was crucified instead of Jesus.<sup>2</sup>

If there are doubts about the crucifixion, then there's no bodily resurrection.

## VI. The God-Man 19:7

Behold the Man --- the God Man

....he made himself the Son of God. The Jews had a law...and you find it in Lev. 24:16

**Leviticus 24:16** Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.

To claim equality with God....to say you are the Son of God.... is blasphemy... the penalty is death. UNLESS!

Unless, you are really the Son of God.

Jesus is the perfect, sinless man.....and he is also the Son of God. He is Man and God. He's not ½ man and ½ God. He's 100% Man; and 100% God.

<sup>1</sup> Surah An-Nisa - 157-158 - Quran.com

<sup>2</sup> Gnostic Gospel of Basilides, Gnostic Apocalypse of Peter <https://www.catholic.com/qa/why-muslims-disbelieve-the-crucifixion>

## **John 1:1-2,14**

1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

How can Jesus be both God and Man at the same time? How can God who never sleeps....never eats, never gets tired and hungry, and yet Jesus as a man experienced all of this.

God is a triune God. He is Father, Son, Holy Spirit. All three are equally God. Yet there is ONE God.

Jesus always existed....just as God always existed....and the Holy Spirit always existed.

The Incarnation of Jesus.... is this... he came into the world....born of the Virgin Mary...it was at that moment...Jesus took upon himself flesh. He took upon Himself a 2<sup>nd</sup> nature.

He is a divine nature.. He is a human nature.

- Colossians 2:9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,
- 1Tim 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus
- Titus 2:13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
- John 20:28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

Isaac Watts was correct in his hymn "At the Cross"

Well might the sun in darkness hide  
And shut his glories in,  
When Christ, the mighty Maker died,  
For man the creature's sin.

The MAKER....the CREATOR died in the Person of the MAN - Jesus Christ

**Thank God - He arose ... victorious... over death....**

John on the Isle of Patmos "Beheld Christ".

## **Revelation 1:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

<sup>18</sup> I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

To Behold Christ is to know Him; it is to believe Him; and it's to be changed by Him. Look unto Christ and be saved.

-----For the Church Bulletin-----

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#### **1. The Rejected Man      vv.39-40**

Reject Jesus, but Accept Barrabas    Matt. 27:16 " a notorious prisoner"    Mark 15:7  
"murderer, insurrectionist"    Matthew 21:41; Ps 118:22    Isa. 53:3    John 1:11

#### **2. The Tortured Man      19:1**

#### **3. The Mocked Man      19:2-3      Isa. 50:6**

#### **4. The Sinless Man      19:4-5      Hebrews 4:15                  IJohn 3:5                  2Cor. 5:21**

#### **5. The Crucified Man      19:6      Matt 27:22-23                  Luke 23:20**

#### **6. The God-Man              19:7      Lev. 24:16                  John 1:1-2, 14**

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