

Matthew 27:1-2 & 11-31

- Matt. 27:1 When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death.
- Matt. 27:2 And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.
- And...
- Matt. 27:11 Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus said to him, "It is as you say."
- Matt. 27:12 And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.
- Matt. 27:13 Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?"
- Matt. 27:14 But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.
- Matt. 27:15 Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished.
- Matt. 27:16 And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.
- Matt. 27:17 Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"
- Matt. 27:18 For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.
- Matt. 27:19 While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him."
- Matt. 27:20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.
- Matt. 27:21 The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!"
- Matt. 27:22 Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!"
- Matt. 27:23 Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"
- Matt. 27:24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."
- Matt. 27:25 And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."
- Matt. 27:26 Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.
- Matt. 27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him.
- Matt. 27:28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.
- Matt. 27:29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"
- Matt. 27:30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.
- Matt. 27:31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

Observations & Discussion

1. Read John 19:6-8. It's clear from what all the Gospel writers tell us that Pilate *knew* that Jesus was innocent. Why then do you think he went along with the Jews demand to crucify Him?

2. Based on your answer to the first question, what lesson or warning can you apply to your own life?

3. Pilate told the *Jewish leaders* that they should judge Jesus (John 18:31). When that didn't work he asked to *Herod* to judge Jesus (Luke 23:6-12). Then he told the *Jewish leaders* that they should crucify Jesus (John 19:6-8). Finally he appealed to the *crowds* to choose who should be crucified; Jesus or a murderer (Matthew 27:15-17).

What was Pilate desperately trying to accomplish and why?

4. How is Pilate's experience with Jesus an illustration of Revelation 3:20?

5. How is Pilate's experience representative of every human being?

6. The Jewish leaders had no problem implementing capital punishment themselves—see Acts 7:54-60. So why do you think they wanted Pilate to condemn Jesus to death?

7. How does a knowledge of the historical context help us to understand the dynamics of a bible passage such as the one we studied tonight?