

Jesus the True King (John 19:1-16)
Believer's Fellowship // April 21, 2024

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ² And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³ They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶ When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁸ When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

¹² From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." ¹³ So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Introduction

Context: Where are we in the Gospel of John?

John 1-12: The Book of Signs

John 13-21: The Book of Exaltation*

 John 13-17: The Farewell Discourse

 John 18-21: The Passion Narrative*

 John 18:1-11: Betrayal and Arrest

 John 18:12-27: Jewish Trial

 John 18:28-19:16: Roman Trial*

 John 19:17-42: Death and Burial

 John 20: Resurrection

 John 21: Epilogue

Theme: What is this passage about?

Jesus is an unexpectedly innocent and sovereign king who gave Himself into the hands of sinful men to suffer and die for His people.

Jesus' Innocent Suffering (19:1-5)

Contrast: The innocence of Jesus versus the guilt of the Jews and Pilate (cf. 18:31, 19:11).

"We find three major characters in Jesus' Roman trial before Pilate: the Jewish authorities, Pilate, and Jesus. John portrays the Jewish authorities as hypocritical, insincere, and manipulative...Pilate, for his part, represents the futile effort to remain neutral with regard to Jesus...Jesus, finally, is in firm control in the face of severe adversity; he is calm, constant, and unfazed both by the Jewish and Roman authorities...In the crucible of intense suffering, Jesus emerges unscathed spiritually and ultimately victorious, while the powers of this world – both Jewish and Roman, representing the world at large – prove to be corrupt and guided by nothing but personal and political self-interest."

Andreas Kostenberger, Signs of the Messiah, pp. 163-164

Jesus' Sovereign Sentencing (19:6-16)

Mission: Jesus engages Pilate personally (cf. 18:33-38).

Reminder: Jesus is the sovereign king who gives Himself up (cf. John 10:14-19; Acts 4:23-31).

Conclusion

Reflection: Where are you seeking a solution for your guilt?

Next Sunday (4/28)

Jesus the Promised Savior (John 19:17-42)