

BIBLE READING DAY 45, TUESDAY: APRIL 12

Jesus Brought Before Pilate

Matthew 27:1–2; Mark 15:3–5; Luke 23:2, 5–7; John 18:28–38

And when it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people consulted together against Jesus to put him to death. And they bound him and led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

It was early in the morning, and the chief priests and elders did not enter the Praetorium, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. Pilate therefore went out to them and said, “What charge do you bring against this man?”

“If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.”

“You take him and judge him according to your law,” said Pilate.

“We are not allowed to put anyone to death,” said the Jews. Thus, the word of Jesus was to be fulfilled which he spoke concerning the manner of death he was to die.

Then they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man perverting our nation and forbidding people to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.”

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

“Are you saying this of your own accord,” replied Jesus, “or did others say this to you about me?”

“Am I a Jew?” answered Pilate. “Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?”

“My kingdom is not of this world,” replied Jesus. “If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have fought to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But my authority as king is not of earthly origin.”

“Are you indeed a king?” said Pilate.

“You are right in saying that I am a king,” replied Jesus. “For this purpose I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who loves the truth listens to my voice.”

“What is ‘truth’?” said Pilate. And having said this, he went out again to the Jews and said, “I do not find this man guilty of any crime.”

Then the chief priests began to accuse Jesus of many things.

“Have you no answer to offer?” Pilate asked Jesus. “See how many charges they are bringing against you!”

But Jesus made no reply, to Pilate’s astonishment. Then the chief priests grew more insistent, saying, “He is stirring up the people, teaching throughout all Judea—all the way from Galilee, where he started, even to here.”

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean; and when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who happened to be in Jerusalem at that time.

Jesus Appears Before Herod

Luke 23:8–12

When Herod saw Jesus, he was delighted; for he had long wanted to see him, because he had heard about him and hoped to see him perform some miracle. And he questioned him at length, but Jesus gave him no reply. Then the chief priests and scribes, who had been standing by, began shouting accusations at Jesus. And after Herod, along with his soldiers, had mocked Jesus and shown his contempt for him, he dressed him in a gorgeous cloak and sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that same day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

Before Pilate Again

Matthew 27:17–26; Mark 15:6–7; Luke 23:13–16; John 18:39-40

Then Pilate called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people and said to them, “You brought this man to me as one who is misleading the people. After examining him before you, I have not found this man guilty of your charges against him. Nor did Herod, for he sent him back to us. He has done nothing deserving of death. I will therefore give him a flogging and release him.”

Now it was the custom of Pilate at the time of the festival to release to them one prisoner, whomever they asked. And there was a man named Barabbas in custody along with some others who had taken part in a riot, and who had committed murder during their insurrection. Pilate therefore said to the crowd, “Whom do you want me to release to you—Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Messiah?”

For Pilate knew that it was because of envy that they had delivered up Jesus. Besides, while he was conducting the hearing, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much today in a dream about him.”

But the chief priests and elders persuaded the mob to ask for Barabbas and to demand the death of Jesus. But the governor responded by saying to them again, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

“Barabbas!” they said.

“Then what shall I do with Jesus, who is called Messiah?” asked Pilate.

“Let him be crucified!” they all shouted.

“Just what has he done that is wrong?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but a riot was developing instead, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this man. The responsibility is yours.”

“His blood be on us and on our children!” all the people answered.

Approximate Timeline of Jesus’s Public Ministry														
EARLY LIFE	EARLY MINISTRY	FIRST PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FIRST BOOTHS	WINTER	SECOND PASS-OVER	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER	FINAL PASS-OVER

DEVOTIONAL DAY 45 (TUESDAY APRIL 12)

The Defeater Is Defeated!

Based on Matthew 27:1–26; Mark 15:3–7; Luke 23:2–16; John 18:28–40

Before I begin today, I want to say what an honor it is to teach on an event from this week. This week – Holy Week, Passion Week – is so important to us as Christians. I truly think we could spend a lifetime studying and meditating on the powerful sermons, the fear from the establishment, the behavior of the disciples, and the humility of the Christ that consume this week and still have more to learn. These difficult few days lead to a marvelous celebration on Sunday and they are, without a doubt, my favorite dates on the calendar! My gratitude goes to Pastor Tim for inviting me to share from these final few hours in the earthly life of Christ.

I was very young, probably five or six years old, when I attended a Passion Play at a local church. I can remember right where I sat that night about seven rows back on the left side of the audience in a single overflow seat out in the aisle with my parents to my right. After Jesus was condemned, the actor was brought to center stage, turned toward the back wall, and his tunic was ripped from him, exposing his back to the audience. As he was beaten, stage makeup stained his skin red with increasing severity as the whip continued to rain down on him. I will never forget that image. Never. It was my first realization of what Jesus endured.

That event plays out in our reading today as Jesus stands before His accusers and is sentenced to be flogged at the hands of the Romans. Because of the experience I had watching this scene at such a young age, this moment before crucifixion always leads me to a very personal moment of reflection with my Savior. “By His stripes, we are healed” ... thank You, God!

Elsewhere in today’s passage, Jesus stands completely silent in the court of Herod Antipas as wrongful accusations are hurled at Him. It’s curious that Jesus was willing to spar with Pilate about power and truth while giving Herod nothing. Oh, but these two have history! This was the man who had executed John the Baptizer (Mark 6:32) and made it publicly known he wanted Jesus dead, as well (Luke 13:31). It was also his father that led the purge of Jewish children when Christ was born (Matthew 2:16).

But let’s not cast Jesus’s integrity into the muck of pettiness. Instead, let’s identify that Jesus, even bound and at the mercy of Pontius Pilate, was willing to bring His truth to the ears of one who had never heard it. The same charity was not afforded Herod, a king with a long history of hearing but ultimately rejecting the message from both Jesus and His cousin, John.

So Jesus stands silently before Herod, fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah 53:7:

“He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet He never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, He did not open his mouth.”

Lord, early let me hear Your words and hide them in my heart that I may be counted worthy of Your truth. In Your final hours, may I humbly walk alongside You, taking up my own cross, that I, too, may join You in victory one day.

--By Rief Kessler

WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS IN RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU HAVE READ:

WHAT DID GOD SAY TO ME?

PRAYER: WHAT DID I SAY TO GOD?

ACTS OF PRAYER: ADORATION, CONFESSION, THANKSGIVING, SUPPLICATION (How God Can Supply Needs)

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