

## “Jesus: The Crucified King”

The Vine Series... John 15:5

### SCRIPTURE

John 19:1-18 (NIV)

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. <sup>2</sup> The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe <sup>3</sup> and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face. <sup>4</sup> Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” <sup>5</sup> When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” <sup>6</sup> As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.” <sup>7</sup> The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

<sup>8</sup> When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, <sup>9</sup> and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” <sup>12</sup> From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

<sup>13</sup> When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). <sup>14</sup> It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews. <sup>15</sup> But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!” “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. <sup>16</sup> Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

**Subject Question:** What three characteristics of Jesus convinced Pilate that Christ really was a King?

**Compliment answer:** Jesus was Majestic in Misery, Powerful in Powerlessness, and Acceptable in Rejection.

**Big Idea:** The three characteristic of Jesus that convinced Pilate that Christ was really a King were: Jesus was Majestic in Misery, Jesus was Powerful in Powerlessness, and Jesus was Acceptable in Rejection.

## Homiletical Idea: “A Unlikely King Came to us...”

**Purpose:** I want the congregation to see the person and impression of kingship that Pilate may have perceived in his only interaction with Jesus.

**Introduction:** The King of the Jews... have you ever wondered why this was Pilate’s take on Jesus... sure people had said it and railed against Jesus because of it. But was Pilate convinced? If not at first, what happened in Pilate’s life that led him to honestly consider the fact that Jesus really may have been a true King. Think about it...in John’s Gospel we read these words in chapter 19:

*There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.<sup>19</sup> Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.<sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek.<sup>21</sup> The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”<sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”*

Today we begin to look at the 3 interactions between Jesus and Pilate. The real question however is not just, what did Pilate see and perceive but what do you and I...?

(Behold the Man, Behold the King, Behold My King)

- A. Jesus was Majestic in Misery (Vs.1-7) *Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.<sup>2</sup> The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe<sup>3</sup> and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.<sup>4</sup> Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.”<sup>5</sup> When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”<sup>6</sup> As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”<sup>7</sup> The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”*
- B. How ridiculous to Pilate Jesus must appeared. Soiled, dirty, blood stained and soaked. Certainly not the image of what a King normally looks like. And yet, maybe this is what any true king-leader of people should look like: battle tested, wounded, struck, but still standing. Maybe a moment... Pilate simply gazed not so much with pity as

with... admiration?.no... wonder... maybe... maybe more of a heightened sense of curiosity.

- C. And so it is with many over the centuries when they consider the claims of this “king of the Jews” that so many follow. There is always the doubt, there is always the speculation, but there is always the innate curiosity. WHO IS THIS MAN?
- D. Perhaps Pilate represents many more people than we actually imagine. Curious and yet Unconvinced. Fascinated but too inclined to Facts. Hopeful yet, no... can't be, impossible.... So they like Pilate at this stage simply say...

(Behold The Man...)

- A. Powerful in Powerlessness (Vs. 8-12) <sup>8</sup> *When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, <sup>9</sup> and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” <sup>12</sup> From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”*
- B. Jesus appearance may have been ridiculous, in most people’s eyes, but what and who is the man whose words seemed so unshakeable, so confident, so almost understanding of Pilate’s predicament. What was it that Pilate perceived between the lines of what Jesus said? An unexplainable strength? Power in powerlessness...?
- C. Even today, the words and claims of Jesus have an oft times unexpected impact on those who hear them. How could these followers speak so confidently about this Jesus being alive today— offering forgiveness---promising heaven. They seem so assured.
- D. Still, he’s no friend of mine. Anyone who believes in Him seems to have to give up so much. What would my friends think, what about my family? He may be a King. But.... Like Pilate we can only say...

(Behold the Man, Behold the King)

- A. Acceptable in Rejection (Vs. 13-19) <sup>13</sup> *When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). <sup>14</sup> It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about*

noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. <sup>15</sup> But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. <sup>16</sup> Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

- B. There is lots of speculation about Pilate. Legend says that Pilate became a Christian later on in His Life. I beg to disagree; I believe that Pilate became a Christian on the Spot. Too much evidence that points to the reality of a changed heart. Consider again what He wrote to put over the cross. I believe that over time Pilate came to view this time as His life as the ultimate paradox. There he was, Judging Jesus. Playing as though He himself was God with the power of life and death in HIS hands. How he had tried to wash the blood of Jesus off His hands... Something had happened to Him... and I believe that as He woefully got up to pronounce Judgement on Jesus, he would afterwards, glance down at the Judgment seat knowing the truth of matter: that it had the wrong person sitting there all along. The one who deserved that seat was now hung between Heaven and Earth, because of my words and my actions. Yes, He was found guilty... But Guilty of what? Guilty with and for the sins of humanity. Guilty for the sins of all who hate Him Guilty and paying the price, Pilate might have thought, for my sin of judging Him.
- C. So it is with people who hear the power in the once thought powerless words by the one who is somehow so majestic in His misery. A wounded King? A suffering Savior? How long have we been sitting on the judgment seat of our life? Judging others. Judging God. Until somehow that seat looks so underserving. The guilty one is me, not Him.
- D. Like Pilate, many people are converted and changed on the spot. Realizing maybe for the first time that the one who deserves to be judged is me. Maybe my biggest sin is the way that I have spent a lifetime passing Judgment on the one who, could judge me. But chooses instead to forgive me. O how wrong a lot of us have been about thus Jesus for so long. Maybe with Pilate... I can now accept what was once rejected and say...

(Behold the Man, Behold the King. Behold... My King)