**October 14, 2020**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“SUFFERING IN SILENCE”**

**Mark 15:1-20**

***Mark 15:1 And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried [him] away, and delivered [him] to Pilate."***

The narrative of Jesus’ trial is as follows. Jesus was first taken to (the high priest), and then to the Roman in charge, Pilate. The night of Jesus’ arrest, He was brought before Annas, then Caiaphas and then assembly of religious leaders called the Sanhedrin (John 18:19-24; Matthew 26:57). Rome had power in Jerusalem in those days and only the Romans could order Jesus' death. However, we see a fulfillment of Jesus' own prophecy.

***Matthew 20:18-19***

***18Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death,***

***19And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.***

After this He was taken before Pilate, the Roman Governor (John 18:28), sent off to Herod (Luke 23:7), and returned to Pilate (Luke 23:11-12), who finally sentenced Him to death. There were six parts to Jesus’ trial: three stages in a religious court and three stages before a Roman court. Jesus was tried before Annas, the former high priest; Caiaphas, the current high priest; and the Sanhedrin. He was charged in these “ecclesiastical” trials with blasphemy, claiming to be the Son of God, the Messiah.

***Mark 15:2 "And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest [it]."***

Pilate really was not in favor of killing Jesus. He asked Jesus, Are you the king of the Jews? Jesus answered Pilate in a way that left no argument. This was as if He was saying, "Yes, but you said it". The trials before the Roman authorities started with Pilate (John 18:23) after Jesus was beaten. The charges brought against Him were very different from the charges in His religious trials. He was charged with inciting people to riot, forbidding the people to pay their taxes, and claiming to be King. Pilate found no reason to kill Jesus, so he sent Him to Herod (Luke 23:7). Herod had Jesus ridiculed but, wanting to avoid the political liability, sent Jesus back to Pilate (Luke 23:11-12). This was the last trial as Pilate tried to appease the animosity of the Jews by having Jesus scourged. The Roman scourge was a terrible whipping designed to remove the flesh from the back of the one being punished. In a final effort to have Jesus released, Pilate offered the prisoner Barabbas to be crucified and Jesus released, but to no avail. The crowds called for Barabbas to be released and Jesus to be crucified. Pilate granted their demand and surrendered Jesus to their will (Luke 23:25). The trials of Jesus represent the ultimate mockery of justice. Jesus, the most innocent man in the history of the world, was found guilty of crimes and sentenced to death by crucifixion.

***Mark 15:3 "And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing."***

***Mark 15:4 "And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee."***

***Mark 15:5 "But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled."***

Sometimes, the best answer is no answer at all, and we see that was what the Lord did there. The chief priests were accusing Jesus of everything they could think of to try to stir Pilate up. They mentioned Jesus being King of the Jews, thinking Pilate would think that Jesus would lead the Jews against Rome. Pilate was truly trying to get to the bottom of this. He was not on anyone's side at that moment. He marveled that Jesus was not defending Himself by answering back all these accusations, as we see in verse 5.

***Isaiah 53:3-9***

***3He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.***

***4Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.***

***5But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.***

***6All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.***

***7He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.***

***8He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.***

***9And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.***

***Mark 15:6 "Now at [that] feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired."***

This was like a governor pardoning a criminal. It was the custom to pardon one prisoner during the Passover feast. Pilate somewhere along here sent Jesus to Herod to be judged, because Pilate could find no fault in Him.

***Luke 23:12, "And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves."***

Pilate and Herod, even though they were involved in sentencing Jesus, were not as guilty as these high priests, priests, scribes, and Pharisees.

***Mark 15:7 "And there was [one] named Barabbas, [which lay] bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection."***

This Barabbas was not only a murderer but had tried to overthrow the government, as well. Barabbas was not just a regular criminal, but a vicious murderer.

***Mark 15:8 "And the multitude crying aloud began to desire [him to do] as he had ever done unto them."***

***Mark 15:9 "But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews?"***

You see, from the very beginning Pilate could find no fault in Jesus. In this question Pilate was asking them to ask for the release of Jesus. Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent of any wrongdoing. He could see right through these accusations of the high priests. He knew that their jealousy of His powerful ministry had caused them to try to get Jesus killed. He knew that Jesus was not guilty of any crime punishable by death.

***Mark 15:10 "For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy."***

We see priests who were supposed to be upholding the things of God, who were so puffed up with pride that they were about to destroy the Saviour of the World. High priests were supposed to know the Scriptures, and yet they would not believe that Jesus was Messiah.

***Mark 15:11 "But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them."***

***Mark 15:12 "And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do [unto him] whom ye call the King of the Jews?"***

***Mark 15:13 "And they cried out again, Crucify him."***

The Chief priests had a hold on the people. They used their great influence here and caused the people to cry out for this murderer Barabbas over Jesus. Pilate was seeking every way he could to not kill Jesus. Pilate actually believed Jesus was who He said He was. Pilate told them you will have to judge your King yourselves. This cry will ring through all the ages. These two words "crucify him" changed all of history. It brought death and hell to those who do not believe, and life everlasting for those who do believe.

***Mark 15:14 "Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him."***

Pilate, through these verses, tried to make the people understand that they were crucifying an innocent man. The people would not listen to Pilate but listened to these evil priests. What a terrible thing to know that you asked for Jesus to be crucified. They were crying out, but we had our part in this, as well. Every person who ever lived (except Jesus) had sin in his life at one time. Our sins helped cause Jesus to be crucified. He was crucified for our sins, so that we might go free.

***Mark 15:15 "And [so] Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged [him], to be crucified."***

***Mark 15:16 "And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band."***

In Matthew 27:24 we read about Pilate's attitude,

***Matthew 27:24 "When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but [that] rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed [his] hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye [to it]."***

This was all against the wishes of Pilate. The people spoke, and Pilate allowed this, because it was the will of the people. "Praetorium" means governor's courtroom, or hall of judgement. This "whole band", here, meant large number of soldiers.

***Mark 15:17 "And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his [head],"***

***Mark 15:18 "And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews!"***

Little did they know that He should be robed in purple (purple is one of the godly colors). Purple showed Jesus as the King of not only the Jews but was looking forward to when He will come in the clouds as King of kings and Lord of lords when he will be King of all the earth. Thorns were a very hated plant on the earth. This "crown of thorns" showed just how little regard these soldiers had for our Lord. Of course, it was painful, also, with the thorns sticking in His head. This salute was a sarcastic salute. They were saying, "You say you are King, but look at you now."

***Mark 15:19 "And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing [their] knees worshipped him."***

All of this was mocking Jesus. Had they only known who He really was, they would never have done this. This spitting and striking Jesus went on and on. Bowing to worship Him was laughing at Him and making fun, as well.

***Mark 15:20 "And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him."***

We know from other Scriptures that they took Him outside the city wall to be crucified.

***Matthew 27:31-33***

***31And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.***

***32And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.***

***33And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a***

***skull,***

**QUESTIONS**

1. After the council of priests, elders, and scribes met, they bound Jesus and took Him to whom?
2. Who was the only one who could order the death penalty in those days?
3. What did Pilate ask Jesus?
4. How did Jesus answer?
5. When the chief priests accused Jesus of many things, what did Jesus answer?
6. Why did the chief priest tell Pilate that Jesus said He was King of the Jews?
7. Why did Pilate marvel at Jesus?
8. This release of a prisoner at the feast was like what?
9. Why did Pilate send Jesus to Herod?
10. Who was truly to blame for the crucifixion?
11. Who did Pilate want to release?
12. Who did the people want released?
13. Who had swayed the people's opinion?
14. What did Pilate know was the real reason the priests wanted Jesus killed?
15. Pilate asked the people what, to do with Jesus, what did they answer?
16. What did Pilate try to convince them of to no avail?
17. What part did we have in Jesus being crucified?
18. What physical thing did Pilate do to show that he had no part in this?
19. Who took Jesus away?
20. What does Praetorium mean?
21. What color robe did they put on Jesus?
22. What did this purple robe really show Jesus as?
23. What was His crown made of?
24. What other terrible things did the soldiers do to Jesus?
25. What did they put on Him to take Him to crucify Him?