



## **Passion of Christ—Before Pilate**

Series: *The Passion of Christ* John 18:39-19:17

March 11, 2018

Pastor Brian Erickson

Pilate makes four attempts to avoid this responsibility...

1. Pilate offers them **Barabbas**

John 18:39-40

2. Pilate **beats** Jesus

John 19:1-5; Luke 22:64

3. Pilate **argues** his case

John 19:6-12; Isaiah 53:7; Luke 22:31-32; 1 Peter 2:23

4. Pilate **argues** again

John 19:12-17; Romans 16:13

# Growth Group Questions

All references from New International Version (NIV)

## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## MY STORY

1. Share about a specific time when someone (other than Christ) made a major sacrifice for you. How did you respond to them?
2. The Bible says in James 1:19 that we need to be, "...slow to speak and slow to become angry." Who do you know that is 'slow to speak and slow to become angry'? How does that help them? Are you like this?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Pilate honored a custom which was to release a prisoner at the time of Passover. He said in John 18:39-40, "Do you want me to release the king of the Jews?" And they shouted back, "No, not him! Give us Barabbas!" Pilate forced their hand. They didn't care about Rome's rule or government; they simply wanted this Man dead. How do non-Christians respond to Jesus today?

### 1 Corinthians 1:18

<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

### 1 Corinthians 1:23-25

<sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

### 1 Corinthians 2:14

<sup>14</sup> The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

### 2 Thessalonians 2:10

<sup>10</sup> and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

Jesus commanded us to "Go and make disciples", which means we need to share Christ with lost people. Have you ever shared the gospel with someone who is lost? Explain.

Do you ever get frustrated sharing Christ? I mean, you are offering them eternal life with God, and they can't see it. How do you respond when someone refuses Christ?

2. When you watch the movie *The Passion of the Christ* and see the beating that Jesus took, which part is most disturbing? Why? Read these verses prophesying Christ's suffering and identify specific things Christ endured that were prophesied hundreds of years before they happened.

**Psalm 22:14**

<sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me.

**Isaiah 50:6**

<sup>6</sup> I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.

**Isaiah 53:4-6**

<sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**Micah 5:1**

<sup>1</sup> Marshal your troops now, city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod.

When you see the 'fulfilled prophecy of Scripture' how does it make you feel about the Truth of our Bible? What about prophecies not yet fulfilled?

When you see the 'fulfilled prophecy of Scripture' how does it make you feel about God's sovereignty and the tough situations you face?

3. In John 19:8 it says that Pilate was afraid. Then in John 19:9 Pilate asked Jesus where He was from, but Jesus gave him no answer. Brian emphasized Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 53:7 "...as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth." Read these verses about Jesus' silence before His accusers.

**Matthew 26:63**

<sup>63</sup> But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

### **Matthew 27:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” <sup>14</sup> But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

### **Luke 23:9**

<sup>9</sup> He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer.

### **1 Peter 2:23**

<sup>23</sup> When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

If you were still in your sin, and you were standing before God, would you have anything to say in your defense? Why or why not?

Jesus stood in judgment bearing your sin and remained silent. In 2 Corinthians 5:21 Paul says, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” What does it mean to have the ‘righteousness of God’?

**4.** The entire time Jesus was before Pilate, he was trying to get Jesus released. From a political standpoint Jesus was innocent. So Pilate left it up to the Jews, and they shouted “Crucify Him.” Why did Jesus come to die? Read...

### **Romans 5:10**

<sup>10</sup> For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

### **1 John 4:10**

<sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Who is your best non-Christian friend? Have you had a conversation with that person about Jesus? Explain.

## **TAKING IT HOME**

Based on this week’s sermon and homework, what is the most important thing for you to remember and why?