
JESUS BEFORE PILATE

MARK 15:1-15



MARK 15:1-15

¹ Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

² “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

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³ The chief priests accused him of many things.

⁴ So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”

⁵ But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed

MARK 15:1-15

⁶ Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested.
⁷ A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. ⁸ The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

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⁹“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, ¹⁰ knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

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¹² “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

¹³ “Crucify him!” they shouted.

¹⁴ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

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¹⁵ Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.



PERSONAL REFLECTION

- In what situations have you felt the power of a group?
- Have you ever been influenced by the opinions of a group? How did this turn out?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE

1. When did the members of the Sanhedrin decide what to do with Jesus? (1)
2. What did the Sanhedrin do with Jesus after deciding He was guilty? (1)
3. What did Pilate question Jesus about? (2)
4. How did Jesus respond to the Sanhedrin and Pilate? (2)

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE

5. What prompted Pilate to goad Jesus about defending Himself? (3-4)
6. What amazed Pilate? (3-5)
7. How did Jesus react to the accusations raised against him by the chief priests? (5)
8. What did Pilate think of Jesus? (5)
9. What did the crowd ask Pilate to do for them? (8; 13)

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE

10. Why did Pilate try to have Jesus released instead of Barabbas? How? (9-10)
11. Why did Pilate's attempt to release Jesus fail? (11-15)
12. What reason did the crowd give Pilate to crucify Jesus? (14)
13. How did the crowd influence Pilate's decision? (15)
14. What finally happened to Jesus? Why? (15)

UNDERSTAND THE PASSAGE

1. Of those involved in trying and sentencing Jesus, who do you think bore the greater responsibility, the religious leaders or Pilate? Why?
2. Why do you think the Sanhedrin handed Jesus over to Pilate?
3. How did Jesus' enemies manipulate public opinion against him?

UNDERSTAND THE PASSAGE

4. Why was Pilate amazed by Jesus' behaviour?
5. When have you ever done something because the crowd pressured you to?
6. How can we remember to respond properly when pressured by the crowd?
7. Why didn't Jesus defend himself?

UNDERSTAND THE PASSAGE

8. When is it unimportant to defend ourselves or our actions?
9. Why is it so difficult to trust God with or reputation?
10. In what way can you entrust God with your reputation?



- What reminder can you use this week to entrust your reputation to God?
- What is one step you can take this week to strengthen your conviction against pressure from co-workers, friends, or family?