

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

The King of the Jews

Matthew 27:11-31

<p>Previously</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A corrupt court & silent savior • Peter's denial, Judas' worldly sorrow 	<p>Three (?) Studies Left</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today: The crowd, the governor and the King
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[Pray]

:11

<p>Irony: Ruler of the Universe judged by regional governor</p> <p>Contentious area Many uprisings Occupied land <i>Not much has changed in the Middle East in 2,000 years</i></p>	<p>Governor under Caesar Roman Empire: Europe, North Africa, Middle East Expanded Greek empire: why NT written in Greek A pagan empire - Caesar (like god) at the top</p> <p>Pilate known for being ruthless Commentary takes note that his treatment of Jesus - noticing the difference. Do people see any real difference in us?</p>
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Luke 23:2-5 - And they began to accuse Him, saying, "**We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.**" Then Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered him and said, "It is as you say." So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man." But they were the more fierce, saying, "**He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place.**"

Lies, twisted half-truths! Jesus never forbid paying taxes,

Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and God's what is God's! Matthew 22

<p>What does Pilate ask? Are you the King of the Jews? Triumphal entry, Christ "anointed" <i>Anointing of a King oil, Holy Spirit</i></p>	<p>Jews had a King, Herod</p> <p>Was in league with the Romans - had to be</p> <p>"Commentary sarcasm" - <i>you, really?</i></p>
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<p>Was Jesus the real King of the Jews? Pilate's own authority came from Rome,</p>	<p>Jesus confirms it to Pilate! A Gentile! A Roman occupier!</p>
<p>Where was Jesus' authority coming from?</p>	<p>He had been more coy in the past with pointed questions</p>

I like that Jesus turns the attention on Pilate's words.

You said it Pilate...as if, the truth has come out of your own mouth, do you believe it?

:12-14

<p>Early in the morning (John 18)</p> <p>Praetorium - Roman HQ, Judgment Hall, Pilate's Palace</p>	<p>They were worried about being defiled and missing Passover!</p> <p>Their hypocrisy - A small ceremonial law while sending God to be murdered by the Romans</p>
<p>Passing the buck - they were going to stone the woman caught in adultery and not worry about the Romans, but they wanted the Romans to do a public death penalty - keep them out of trouble with the earthly powers</p>	<p>Chief priests and elders start whining and crying to Pilate about how bad Jesus was</p> <p>Can you hear them? The venom? The self righteous attitude?</p>

Turn to John 18:29-38

<p>Pilate finds out He's from Galilee,</p> <p>Saved by jurisdictional bounds!</p> <p>sends him to the Jewish King, Herod, then Herod sends him back.</p> <p>convoluted and corrupt legal system, nobody taking responsibility, passing the buck, <u>worried about their own hides</u></p>	<p>Yet Jesus answers nothing. letting the truth speak for itself</p> <p>But even in court? <i>(if you're there for being a Christian)</i></p> <p>Luke 12:11-12 - "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. "For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."</p>
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<p>The Holy Spirit had no words for Jesus to say.</p> <p>Many times we defend ourselves and it's better to say nothing and let God defend us.</p> <p><i>We can't chase down every lie about ourselves we just need to pay attention to our own witness</i></p>	<p>There was no getting out of this.</p> <p>Jesus could have come up with the right words to get his way - but He knew it was God's will for him to go - and go he must even if unjustly.</p> <p>This would swiftly be the death penalty - albeit wrongly. No retrial.</p>
<p>Pilate marvelled greatly</p> <p>wonder, in admiration, exceedingly beyond measure</p> <p><i>Jesus, the things they are saying about you are outlandish, wild! Over the top, many! Don't you have anything to say for yourself? Something?! C'mon!</i></p>	<p>Think about Pilate's face, reaction, thoughts</p> <p>Wondering what truth was? Fed up. Unsure. Jaded.</p> <p>Seeing something here Unable, unwilling to do the right thing.</p>

:15–18

<p>Pilate's Pardon</p> <p>What a tradition! Keep the people happy by releasing a prisoner.</p> <p><i>Presidential pardons</i></p>	<p>This wasn't about justice.</p> <p>Maybe an admission that they jail lots of people for resisting so if we throw a few fish back in the pond it'll keep the peace</p> <p><i>Bread & circuses pacification</i></p>
<p>Barabbas - literally meant son of the father (bar abba)</p> <p>murdered people in the insurrection against Rome. A terrorist to Rome, maybe a feared person amongst the Jews. A pitbull, nobody wants to be around him but they like him set loose against Rome</p>	<p>Jesus - literally the Son of the Father</p> <p>Jesus framed to Pilate as a dangerous political enemy of Caesar</p> <p>Was really a threat to their self-righteous religious power</p>

In Pilate's mind, surely they'll release Jesus instead...

Surely there's no contest to letting this guy back on the streets.

Surely they'll see Jesus really shouldn't be here and I can calm them down.

<p>Pilate knew they handed Jesus over for envy Even to an unbelieving Gentile, it was obvious they had no real spiritual authority and popularity compared to Jesus.</p> <p>Their arguments were more convincing to themselves than to him.</p>	<p><i>Liars deceiving themselves, Criminals lying, but it's clear</i></p> <p>They were green with envy and the only thing that would pacify them would be red blood</p>
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:19

<p>Bema Seat -seat of judgment - ironic as earthly powers have no real power <i>(take a look at some bathroom fixtures...)</i></p> <p>Jesus will sit on the real bema seat</p>	<p>He's trying to figure out what to do. What the right call is. What's the play?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. His wisest plan, offering Barabbas, failed 2. Talking them out of it - failed 3. Sending Jesus to Herod, failed
<p>The right thing to do would be to let Jesus go <u>But the Jews would revolt</u></p>	<p>Already on thin ice if he had to deal with that again Caesar would be coming after him. He'd lose his post, his power, his job, maybe even his own life</p>

<p>A message from his wife slept in a little bit, had a wild dream about Jesus and what was going on</p> <p><u>Have nothing to do with him</u> Let him go. You can't fix this. You can't be involved in this plot.</p> <p>The word she uses is: righteous before God</p>	<p><i>Pilate, honey, this is not just any man. There is something much larger at play here.</i></p> <p>I don't get the sense that she was overly emotional or a rash dreamer. Probably well aware of the risk to Pilate from Caesar for making bad judgments. And the mob.</p>
<p>Ephesians 6:12 - For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.</p>	
<p>It terrified her. Some dreams can be from God. Can be revealing. But we must test the spirits.</p>	<p>I think it shook Pilate too - <u>but not enough to listen.</u></p>

:20–23

<p>The crowd (mob) was easily swayed The crowds probably would have said let Jesus go when really pressed - but they were stirred up into thinking and demanding what the chief priests wanted</p>	<p>What about our opinions? News, media, music, school, advertising It's effective, and the powers-that-be know it! Really our opinion or just parroting? <i>Concert dance video</i></p>
<p>What about our beliefs? Do we believe what we believe because we've been told it? Or because we've come to see it for ourselves?</p>	<p>Cults, Religions & control "Only priests can read it" "keep it in Latin" "You need this book written a few hundred years ago to interpret" "Trust the science"</p>
<p>John 8:31-32 - Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."</p>	<p>The truth would have set Jesus free - if Pilate was a disciple of truth. Truth is - he really was being crucified for being King of the Jews and King Greater Than Caesar</p>

<p>Pilate reminds them - Jesus is called the anointed one... what do YOU want to do with him?</p> <p>Trying to get their attention but also passing the buck - pretending like he's distant from the whole situation - they're the ones deciding, not him...</p> <p>Flabbergasted...what evil has he done? Really? This is what you want to do? Be reasonable!</p>	<p>Yet the crowd cried out more to crucify him</p> <p>Crucifixion - worst <i>Roman</i> punishment. More offensive than any jewish death penalty. Made examples to the world. All coming and going would see the strong arm of Rome's absolute rule on anyone who would cross them</p> <p><i>Cartels, Muslims - hanging bodies of their enemies from bridges</i></p>
<p>The fickle crowd - really a mob - a week earlier praising him as their savior Now wanted him murdered, horrifically, publicly, shamedly</p>	<p><i>Dgc i. Here is a man who knows the right thing to do — and knows it by many convincing ways. Yet he will do the wrong thing, a terrible thing, in obedience to the multitudes.</i></p>

:24–26

<p>Pilate realized he was not going to win The flames kept getting hotter Only way out was to wash his hands ceremonially</p> <p>As if it would actually absolve him spiritually</p>	<p><i>Never underestimate someone's power to rationalize, to compartmentalize</i></p> <p>I'm innocent - you see to it I'm only doing what I must in my position to keep the pace - but I don't agree with the judgment Not possible.</p>
<p>Calls him a just man - agreed with his wife</p> <p>Political theater, personal theater -hand washing - attempting to rid his conscience</p>	<p>But he was still involved</p>

John 19:10-12 - Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. **Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.**" From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."

So are all of we. *Although it was God's will for Jesus to die for us - it is still all of our sin that sent him there.*

<p>His blood be upon us and our children Calling their kids into it - generations</p> <p>The irony of wanting Jesus' blood on them and their families - but the wrong way around</p>	<p>Exodus 20:5-6 - you shall not bow down to [idols] nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments</p>
<p>Generational curses or responsibility Wrong reparations What your parents did is on them.</p> <p>But perhaps, while children, what your children do is on you</p> <p>But you are not bound. You are free. The curse is only to those who reject God</p>	<p>It's not a heavenly hex</p> <p>The reward for disobedience/hating God is called a curse</p> <p>The reward for obedience/loving God is called a blessing</p>

<p>Parents raising their children in such a way - it's a clock for society</p> <p>Parents, adults, educators instilling vile things in children - look out for the next generation</p> <p>Blinded by envy. Sin. Bloodlust. Brainwashed by the religious leaders.</p>	<p>Israel rejected Jesus then and still does until this day - as a <u>nation</u></p> <p>The early church was mostly Jewish until the diaspora and Paul's missionary journeys Many Messianic Jews today</p> <p>But the time is for the Gentiles, until the 70th week of Daniel (Tribulation period)</p>
<p>You can tell this crowd is demonically charged.</p> <p>Psalm 22:11-13 - Be not far from Me, For trouble is near; For there is none to help. Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me. They gape at Me with their mouths, Like a raging and roaring lion.</p>	<p>Do not be deceived, the mobs, rallies and protests of our day are also demonically charged</p> <p>The condition of our country was and is spiritually dark before we saw the physical manifestations</p>

<p>Judgment begins: scourging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● whipping, but end of whip had metal, bone, sharp elements ● Heavy balls to tenderize and bruise flesh before tearing ● Tear flesh in "ribbons" ● Extreme pain, blood loss, shock <p>Typically meant to get a confession, would eventually lessen with each confession</p>	<p>Jesus had already confessed to being King - nothing more to say</p> <p>Isaiah 53:7b - He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.</p> <p><i>What could Barabbas hear, thought for him?</i></p>
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:27

<p>Even after all of that...whole garrison</p> <p>Pilate's guard - typically 600 tough men there to keep the peace - (some non-Roman conscripts from the area)</p> <p>Only needed four guys to carry it out...</p>	<p>Everyone came to mock Jesus - and the Jews as if this was their king</p> <p>The heartless condition of these men - hardened to life, to blood, to violence It was now a point of entertainment to them</p>
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:28–31

<p>Herod had given Jesus a beautiful robe - literally the robe of the King of the Jews</p> <p>Spat on him, hit him with the reed - like a scepter of power - but weak reed</p> <p>Jesus will rule with an iron scepter during the millenium</p> <p>Reminded of lyrics: "Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice Call out among the scoffers."</p>	<p><i>It is possible for us to mock Jesus today by the way we live. "You have mocked him by a feigned worship, and thus you have put the purple robe upon him. For that purple robe meant that they made him a nominal king, a king who was not in truth a king, but a mere show. Your Sunday religion, which has been forgotten in the week, has been a scepter of reed, a powerless ensign, a mere sham. You have mocked and insulted him even in your hymns and prayers, for your religion is a pretense, with no heart in it; you brought him an adoration that was no adoration, a confession that was no confession, and a prayer that was no prayer. Is it not so?" (Spurgeon)</i></p>
<p>DGC - How did Matthew hear? Maybe it was a soldier who came to faith.</p> <p>Maybe it was from the soldier at the cross v54</p>	<p>From mockery to cruelty</p> <p>Took the robe off and on It must have been unimaginably gory, painful</p>
<p>Psalm 22:6-8 - But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"</p>	<p>Isaiah 52:13-15 - Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider.</p>
<p>All this to a man who did no wrong.</p> <p>Who healed many. Who shared about God. Who resisted the wicked in power. Who made the air, sea, land and everything in it.</p>	<p>He was anointed by God. For this. For us.</p> <p>And it wasn't over yet. There were still more horrors to come.</p>
<p>This was the anointing of God</p>	<p>The sun was up, but the day kept growing darker.</p>

He is the King of the Jews. Is He our king? Make Him your King.