

John 19:1-15

Verses 1-3

- Scourging was an evil, painful, and torturous act that was inflicted on people that could kill people. They would whip the victim that was tied to a post with leather straps that had bone or metal at the end which would dig into and rip flesh. This would cause bleeding, open wounds as well as the exposure of soft tissue, veins/arteries, bones, etc.
- Some commentators believe that since Pilate had found no fault in Christ that scourging Him would appease the Jews and they would not continue with wanting Him killed.
- The crown of thorns placed on His head and the purple robe (meaning royalty) was done in mockery of His claim to be king and to inflict pain. However, the crown of thorns placed upon Christ has significant meaning.
- After the fall in the garden when God placed curses on the earth, Satan, Adam, and Eve. One of the curses of sin placed on the earth was thorns.
 - **Genesis 3:17-19** Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In ^[a]toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. ¹⁸ "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the ^[b]plants of the field; ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.
- Thorns represented the curse of sin and now Christ, the King of Kings is crowned with the symbol of the curse as He becomes a curse to set His people free from the curse.
 - **Galatians 3:13-14** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us— for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a ^[a]tree"— ¹⁴ in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might ^[b]come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
- Not only do they scourge Him but slap Him in the face to add further insult and humiliation.

Verses 4-5

- Hoping the scourging, mockery, and beating will satisfy the Jews, Pilate again declares that he finds no fault in Jesus.
- He brings out Jesus in front of them wearing the robe and crown of thorns as well as the marks and blood showing the pain and torture he has inflicted upon Him.
- He announces "behold the man" which was done to mock and to attempt to show the Jews that he was not the Son of God. However, it speaks to the incarnation and the hypostatic union. In the incarnation, He eternally joined two natures: the human and the divine.

Verses 6-7

- Despite the agony and the torture that Christ has faced, it does not satisfy the Jews and they cry out and demand that Christ be crucified.
- Pilate insists that since he finds no fault in Jesus that the Jews take Him and deal with Him themselves.
- They say they have a law that requires anyone who claims to be the Son of God to die and so they need Pilate's help in killing Jesus.
 - **Leviticus 24:16** Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.
- Blasphemy was something the Jews had charged against Jesus through the gospel according to John.
- Caiaphas also claimed blasphemy from Jesus when questioning Him.
 - **Matthew 26:57-68** Those who had seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were gathered together. ⁵⁸ But Peter was following Him at a distance as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and entered in, and sat down with the ^[a]officers to see

the outcome.⁵⁹ Now the chief priests and the whole [b]Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put Him to death. ⁶⁰They did not find *any*, even though many false witnesses came forward. But later on two came forward, ⁶¹and said, “This man stated, ‘I am able to destroy the [d]temple of God and to rebuild it [d]in three days.’” ⁶²The high priest stood up and said to Him, “Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?” ⁶³But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, “I [e]adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are [f]the Christ, the Son of God.” ⁶⁴Jesus *said to him, “You have said it *yourself*; nevertheless I tell you, [e]hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his [b]robes and said, “He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy; ⁶⁶what do you think?” They answered, “He deserves death!”⁶⁷ Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others [d]slapped Him, ⁶⁸and said, “Prophesy to us, You [f]Christ; who is the one who hit You?”

Verses 8-11

- Pilate upon hearing the claims that Jesus had made became more afraid and returned into the Praetorium to continue to question Jesus including asking Him where He was from. However, Jesus did not answer Pilate.
- Pilate becomes agitated that Jesus does not speak and tells Jesus that He should be careful how He treats him since he has authority over Jesus to either release Him or let Him go free.
- Jesus tells Pilate that he has no authority over Him unless it has been given to him from above to accomplish and fulfill the eternal plan of redemption.
- No political leader or ruler has their position of authority outside of the sovereign hand of God to bring it about.
 - **Romans 13:1-5** Every [a]person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except [b]from God, and those which exist are established by God. ²Therefore [c]whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. ³For rulers are not a cause of fear for [d]good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; ⁴for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. ⁵Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.
- Christ says that those who brought false charges and handed Him over to be on trial have the greater sin than Pilate and his role.

Verses 12-15

- After hearing these words of Christ, Pilate makes an effort to release Him.
- Pilate had previous encounters and difficulties with the Jews which caught the eye of the Roman leadership which caused some form of verbal discipline and a watchful eye from Roman leadership.
- After hearing the Jews say that if he releases Jesus, he would be no friend of Caeasar, perhaps did not want to deal with superiors in a matter involving the Jews again and so he caved to them to save himself and his position.
- He sat in the place designated to announce and bring the final verdict and judgment.
 - **Matthew 27:19-26** While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him *a message*, saying, “Have nothing to do with that righteous Man; for [a]last night I suffered greatly in a dream because of Him.” ²⁰But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to put Jesus to death. ²¹But the governor [b]said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” ²²Pilate *said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all *said, “[c]Crucify Him!” ²³And he said, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they kept shouting all the more, saying, “[d]Crucify Him!”²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this Man’s blood; see *to that* yourselves.” ²⁵And all the people said, “His blood shall be on us and on

our children!”²⁶ Then he released Barabbas [a]for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.

- The irony is that Pilate is judging the one who is the Eternal Judge and one day judge him (Acts 17:31).
- John using Roman time, states it is 6 am when Pilate mockingly publicly presents Jesus to the Jews as their king.
- The Jewish people cry for Jesus to be crucified, stating they have no king but Cesear. However, the one they deny as king is the King of Kings to whom everyone will bow.
 - Phil 2:5-11 Have this attitude [a]in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be [b]grasped,⁷ but [c]emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death [d]on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 - Revelation 19:11-16 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.¹² His eyes *are* a flame of fire, and on His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *on Him* which no one knows except Himself.¹³ *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.¹⁴ And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses.¹⁵ From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will [a]rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the [a]wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.¹⁶ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Jesus wore a crown of thorns that was to inflict pain and to mock Him. However, there is great depth, symbolism, and importance to Him wearing the crown of thorns. The curse placed on the ground after the fall in the garden was that it would produce thorns. Thorns were representative of the curse from the fall due to sin. Now Christ the King of Kings is wearing not a crown of gold, but rather a crown of thorns representing the curse as He Himself would become a curse on behalf of His people to redeem them and set them free from the curse of sin. He is King of Kings and every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. This King left His glory in Heaven to become a curse to set His people free! And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”