

John 19:1–16

- 1 So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him.
- 2 And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe.
- 3 Then they said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck Him with their hands.
- 4 Pilate then went out again, and said to them, “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him.”
- 5 Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, “Behold the Man!”
- 6 Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him.”
- 7 The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.”
- 8 Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid,
- 9 and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer.
- 10 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?”
- 11 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.”
- 12 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.”
- 13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.
- 14 Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, “Behold your King!”

¹⁵ But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"
¹⁶ Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away.

"Beholding Jesus"
John 19:1-16

INTRO:

A song I love to sing begins with the words, ***"Man of Sorrows, what a name/ for the Son of God who came/ Ruined sinners to reclaim/ Hallelujah! What a Savior."*** When we come to **John 19** and behold the treatment of our Sinless Savior, we catch a glimpse of what Isaiah meant when He wrote **Isaiah 53:1-3** ***"Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him."***

When **John 19** opens, Jesus is before Pilate, having been taken there by the leaders of the Jewish people. He is there because the religious authorities want Him put to death. The Apostle John's account is wrapped around three ***"beholds."***

I. Behold the Man (v. 1-5)

II. Behold Your King (v. 12-14)

III. Behold the Lamb

I. Behold the Man (v. 1-5)

John 19:1–5 ***"So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' And they struck Him with their hands. Pilate then went out again, and said to them, 'Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him.' Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, 'Behold the Man.'"***

A. Prior to this in **John 18**, Pilate examined Jesus. As we pick up the account, we read how Pilate ordered Jesus scourged. Pilate believed if Jesus were humiliated and beaten the Jews anger would be satiated and He could be released.

B. In **verse 5** Pilate brought Jesus out to the Jews again and set Him before them, bruised, bleeding, and arrayed in a crown of thorns and a mocking purple robe. Pilate said, ***“Behold the Man.”*** What do we see when we behold Jesus, the man?

1. We see the depths of His condescension for us. Here is the mystery of the incarnation on display for us. Do not the word of **Philippians 2:5-8** ring in our hearts as we see Him there, draped in purple, crowned in thorns, broken and bleeding for us?

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

This is no ordinary man we see standing before us. This is the Lord of glory. The One that Paul declares is ***“equal to God the Father.”*** The very One that John told us in his prologue was from the beginning, with God, and was God! He is the One who John told us again in Revelation will one day sit on the Great White Throne of Judgment and pass judgment upon all mankind Jesus is the eternal God who came in human flesh for us!

2. We also see His humiliation and shame because he was ***“made sin for us.”*** What is that upon His head? It is a crown of thorns. Why such a crown? The soldiers thought it is a chance coincidence; someone's sudden inspiration in the midst of their scorn. These thorns were more than that. Remember when Adam sinned what the LORD said to him?

“Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.”

Thorns were the symbol of the curse. On our Savior's brow He wore the very symbol of the sin and curse He became for us.

2 Corinthians 5:21 ***“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”***

C. What is that on His face and His body? Bruises where the Soldiers struck Him, Spittle where they spat upon Him, A robe to mock and scorn Him. In **Isaiah 53:2 & 3** ***“For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.”***

Why was this necessary? It is because of your sin and mine brings shame. Look at the awful shame my sin and yours cost Him.

II. Behold Your King (v. 12-14)

John 19:12–14 *“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.’ When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, ‘Behold your King.’”*

A. Such a beating was not enough for the authorities. They demanded His crucifixion. They would not be satisfied with anything less. So, Pilate brought Jesus out to the people again and calls them to ***“Behold your King!”***

B. Let us look at this One who is the King. He is the Man who just seven days before rode into Jerusalem. We read in **Luke 19:35-40**

*“Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. And as He went, many spread their clothes on the road. Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, saying: **“BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!”** Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”*

He came just as Zechariah had prophesied 400 years before! They welcomed Him as king, but not in their hearts.

C. God promised He would send His Messiah to be their King. God created Israel from the beginning to be unlike any other nation. Other nations would be ruled by kings and parliaments, Israel would be ruled by God. It would be a theocracy.

Remember when Israel demanded Samuel give them a king like the other nations had? This is what God told Samuel.

1 Samuel 8:7 *“Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.”*

All through her history, Israel rejected God as her king. As much as God put before her His promise, ***“I shall be your God and you shall be My people.”*** Israel over and over again rejected Him!

D. Now we come to her final rejection. Here before them was God their King incarnate in human flesh. What happened when Jesus was presented as Israel's King? (v.15) ***“Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!”*** And Pilate responded ***‘Shall I crucify your King?’*** notice who answers! ***“The chief priests***

answered, "We have no King but Caesar!" It was the temple authorities, the spiritual leaders of the nation, who rejected God as King. It is not by accident that Pilate had hung on our Lord's Cross (v.19) ***"Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."*** Here was the greatest rejection of all! The Jews rejecting their King!

III. Behold the Lamb

A. Although it is not presented in this text here, there is one other thing we need to see as we behold our Savior.

"He is the Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."

We see Him here. He is also the King of kings and Lord of lords, so look closely and behold your King.

B. Before we own Him as our King we need to see Him in a different way; in the way He shown us earlier in this Gospel. In

John 1:29 ***"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"***

Look at Jesus there in Pilate's hall and see Him as the Man of sorrows, see Him as our King, but don't miss seeing Him as God's spotless lamb sacrificed for us. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

What will you do as you behold the Man, the King, and the Lamb? Will you open your heart to receive Him or will you cry out like the Jews of old, ***"Away with Him. We will not have this man rule over us!"***

*Jesus is standing in Pilate's hall
Friendless, forsaken, betrayed by all
Hearken! what meaneth the sudden call?
What will you do with Jesus?*

*What will you do with Jesus?
Neutral you cannot be
Someday your heart will be asking
What will He do with me?*

Hymn #185 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross