

The Righteous Judge Judges the Wicked

Gospel of John, Part LXIV

John 19:4 – 16a

Stuart W. Bryan

I. The King of the Jews

II. The Roman Trial of Jesus

A. Prelude (18:28 cf. 19:14 & Lk 22:1)

The phrase “*Preparation Day*” routinely references the day before the _____. Hence, the “*Preparation Day of the Passover*” refers to the Friday of the Passover week.

B. First Act (18:29-40)

1. Scene 1, *Outside*: The Accusation (18:29-32)
2. Scene 2, *Inside*: Are You the King of the Jews? (18:33-38a)
3. Scene 3, *Outside*: The Choice (18:38b-40)

C. Intermission: Mocking and Scourging (19:1-3)

D. Second Act (19:4-15)

1. Scene 1, *Outside*: Behold the Man! (19:4-7 cf. 8:58; 10:31-33)
2. Scene 2, *Inside*: Where are You from? (19:8-11)

Pilate's proud claim elicits Jesus' response. “*You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.*” Pilate is a mere instrument in the hands of _____ (Pr 21:1). And as the Sovereign One, God knows precisely who has done what and why and will judge accordingly (Gen 18:16ff).

3. Scene 3, *Outside*: Behold your King! (19:12-15)

John highlights the irony of Pilate's presumed _____. Pilate has boasted that he has power to crucify Jesus or to let Jesus go. So now “*Pilate sought to release Him*” but was completely _____ to do so.

Beasley-Murray notes the striking irony of this exchange between Pilate and the chief priests:

“*The highest Roman official in Judea has to endure being accused of a lack of loyalty to the emperor by the representatives of a nation more passionately seething with hatred for the Roman yoke than almost any other [nation] in the empire*” (in Bruner, 1090).

E. Postlude (19:16)

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
 - A. Introduction: He knew His hour had come (13:1)
 - B. Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure (13:2-17:26)
 - C. Jesus Departs this world to the Father (18:1-20:29)
 1. Jesus' Arrest & Trials (18:1-19:16a)
 2. Jesus' Crucifixion & Burial (19:16b-42)
 3. Jesus' Resurrection & Appearances (20:1-29)
 - D. Conclusion: Purpose of the Gospel (20:30-31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

III. The Righteous Judge

A. All Authority Comes from God (1 Pet 2:19-25)

All _____ comes from God, is established by Him, and is controlled by Him.

1. God Establishes Earthly Powers (cf. Jer 27:5; Dan 4:17; 5:18-21)

God declares in Jeremiah 27:5, “*I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are on the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have _____ it to whom it seemed proper to Me.*”

2. God Governs Earthly Events (cf. Acts 2:22-24; 4:27-28)

Pilate is doing precisely what the Lord has decreed. Even Pilate’s conniving and cowardice serve God’s holy purposes. Peter informs the Jews that they are guilty of Jesus’ death because Jesus, “*being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death...*”

Even when suffering, we can entrust ourselves to God’s care. Peter writes:

For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (1 Pet 2:19-25)

B. All Authorities are Accountable to God (cf. Pr 26:25; 1 Pet 2:19-21)

So this brings us to our second point: *all authorities are accountable to God*. Because God is the One who establishes rulers and authorities and who governs in the affairs of men and nations, *therefore* all are accountable to God. Everyone will give an account to God including the rulers of this earth.

C. Unlike Many Authorities, God is Always Just (Ps 98:7-9; 2Cor 5:9-11)

Jesus declares that _____ sin is greater than Pilate’s. Caiaphas knew better. Jesus’ comment assures us that unlike many authorities, *God is always just*. He knows precisely what each person has and has not done and will give to each man as he deserves. It also reminds us that while all sins deserve the wrath and curse of God, not all sins are equally _____. Some sins are more serious than others. The Westminster Shorter Catechism reminds us, “*Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others*” (#83).

IV. Conclusion