

Who is Jesus?: The Authority

John 19:1-11

The Account

- **V.1** – Pilate then takes Christ and flogs Him. This probably is not the more violent scourging, because as we'll see Pilate was still uncertain that Christ would have to die.
- **V.2** – the irony and torture, though, remain. They mock the claim that Jesus is King and fashion a crown of thorns, which would be driven onto His head, the thorns piercing the scalp and perhaps even the skull. Blood would pour down your face (ever seen a boxer get a cut over the eye?). They arrayed Him with a purple robe (the color or royalty).
- **V.3** – “Ave Caesar” was the Roman cry. Here they essentially mock Him saying “Ave the King of the Jews” and continue a process of striking Christ with their hands.
- **V.4** – Pilate continues his seeming diplomacy. He goes back out and says he's bringing Christ back out to reassert that he finds no guilt.
- **V.5** – so, Christ is paraded out before them. Beaten, bleeding and bruised, He is presented by Pilate, “Behold the man!” This could be a statement that shows how Christ is no threat and is just a man, especially given his current physical state. This seems consistent with the text because of the eventual emphasis on real authority.
- **V.6** – their response is quick and pointed. Not to be mistaken, they want Christ dead. They will not let Pilate off the hook because the law forbade them killing Christ. Pilate still tries to remove himself from the situation, but they persist.
- **V.7** – the Jews answer according to their Law, which Pilate would have been bound to honor, one who blasphemes by claiming to be equal with God would be put to death.
- **V.8** – this frightened Pilate all the more. There is a troubling spirit here.
- **V.9** – Pilate goes back to Christ inside and asks “Where are you from?” Interesting question considering their previous line of questioning. Whether he is honestly seeking Christ's “origin” or going further to remove himself, it is unclear, but given his fright and the dream of his wife, he seems genuinely concerned for his own safety. Christ does not answer Him.
- **V.10** – the lack of response seems to frustrate and anger Pilate, so he claims authority that would force Christ to answer. If he truly had this authority, and found no guilt, wouldn't he do so?

- **V.11** – Christ then gives Pilate understanding and this will even more distinctly make the point of v.10. Only authority is given from God, and this authority over Christ comes from God. As a result, the greater sin falls on the one who delivered Christ over to Pilate.

The Doctrine of Man (This is why Jesus suffered)

- A) Anthropology (sin)
 - a. Inherent
 - b. Missing the mark of the Law
 - c. Alien righteousness needed
 - d. Blind (the dream)
 - e. Varying degrees
 - i. All sin is sin
 - ii. All sins do not have the same weight of consequences
- B) Dependent
 - a. Upon temporal authorities
 - b. Totally before God

The Doctrine of Christ (This is why only Jesus COULD suffer)

- A) Humanity
 - a. Pain (felt the full weight of it in every way)
 - b. **Phil.2:5-8**
 - c. **Heb.4:14-16**
- B) Deity (marked by sovereign authority – **John 10:18**)
 - a. Over Military Forces
 - b. Over Spiritual Forces

- c. Over Religious Forces
 - d. Over Governing Forces
 - e. Over Sin
 - f. Over Death
- C) Atoning Work (Humanity & Deity perfectly at work)
- **Isaiah 53:4-6**

The Doctrine of God (This is the ultimate cause of why Jesus suffered)

- A) Sovereign Authority
- B) Creator of Men
- C) Compatibilism (Just taught against using terms like this!!!)
 - a. God's sovereign work and man's responsible choices at work together
 - b. **D.A. Carson**, *"If God merely outwits his enemies, whose evil sets both the agenda and the pace, then the mission of the Son to die for fallen sinners is reduced to a mere after-thought; if God's sovereignty capsizes all human responsibility, then it is hard to see why the mission of the Son should be undertaken at all, since in that case there are no sins for the Lamb of God to take away."*
 - c. So, we affirm two truths. In a sense, a truth (man's responsible choices) within a larger truth (God's sovereign authority)

The Application

- A) Dear Suffering Christian (**1 Peter 2:13-25**)
 - a. Do God's will by submitting to ruling authorities that He has authority over (**vv.13-17**)
 - b. Endure injustice for the purpose of the gospel (**vv.18-20**)

- c. Live His example, knowing you are enabled by His atoning work in suffering and death (**vv.21-25**)
- B) Dear Sinning Christian
- a. Throw off your sin...in view of His cross, Kingdom & authority (**Hebrews 12**)
 - b. **Col.2:13-15**
- C) Dear Lazy Christian (**Matthew 28:18-20**)
- D) Unbeliever
- a. See the work of God.
 - b. He has authority over you. Will you submit to His gracious rule in your life?
 - c. Only in and through Christ, His suffering in your place, can you know that you are indeed His very own. You will know it when your will joyfully submits to His, forsaking sin and following Christ.