

Is Your King the Status Quo?

"Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged. ²The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head. They clothed Him in a purple robe ³and went up to Him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they struck Him in the face. ⁴Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing Him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against Him." ⁵When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" ⁶As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw Him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take Him and crucify Him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against Him." ⁷The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law He must die, because He claimed to be the Son of God." ⁸When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, ⁹and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰"Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." ¹²From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar." ¹³When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). ¹⁴It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. ¹⁵But they shouted, "Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered." ¹⁶Finally Pilate handed Him over to them to be crucified." - John 19:1-16

In this Series, We Will Learn That...

1. Everyone has an ultimate king that they serve, and this king controls their thoughts and actions.
2. Many people who would call Jesus "Saviour" do not understand that He must also be king.

Some Background

Pilate pronounced Jesus "Not guilty" and then had Him flogged.

"What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against Him." - John 18:38

Pilate hoped the Jews would relent after seeing Jesus punished.

"When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" - John 19:5

All of the suffering of Jesus was part of our redemption!

"Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered Him stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted. ⁵But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed." - Isaiah 43:4,5

The Jewish Leaders and Status Quo

1. The Jewish leaders were terrified that Jesus would change everything, and they would lose their position.

"If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." - John 11:48

"You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." - John 11:50

2. These leaders thought that the best way to deal with the threat was to be rid of Jesus, so they manipulated His trial and convinced others to join them in the call for crucifixion.

"As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw Him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take Him and crucify Him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against Him." - John 19:6

"But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed." - Matthew 27:20

3. Having failed to get a guilty verdict on the charge of sedition, these Jews tried to use their own law to kill Jesus.

"And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king." - Luke 23:2

"The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law He must die, because He claimed to be the Son of God." - John 19:7

"...anyone who blasphemes the name of the LORD must be put to death. The entire assembly must stone him. Whether an alien or native-born, when he blasphemes the Name, he must be put to death." - Leviticus 24:16

- The charge of claiming to be the Son of God terrified Pilate, as the Romans believed that "gods" visited people at times.

"When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, ⁹and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer." - Jn 19:8

"Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker." - Acts 14:12

"The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead, but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god." - Acts 28:6

- From then on, Pilate tried to release Jesus.

4. The Jews threatened Pilate with his allegiance to Caesar. In effect, they were saying, "Choose your king."

"From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar." - John 19:12

5. The Jewish leaders pledged their allegiance to Caesar because they were so threatened by Jesus and by change.

"But they shouted, "Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered." - John 19:5

What Do We Learn?

1. Sometimes we can worship consistency or sameness. This can happen in homes, schools, or businesses. Be careful!
2. Sometimes we pledge our allegiance to something or someone we despise because we don't want anything to change.

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