

The Gospel According to John

“A Serene Sovereign amid Savage Phonies”

John 18:28 through 19:16



John 18:28-32

Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. Therefore Pilate went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this Man?”

They answered and said to him, “If this Man were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him to you.”

So Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law.” The Jews said to him, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death,” to fulfill the word of Jesus which He spoke, signifying by what kind of death He was about to die.”

John 18:33-36

Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?”

Pilate answered, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?”

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”

John 18:37-40

Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?”
Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king.
For this I have been born, and for this I have come into
the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth
hears My voice.” Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?”
And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews
and said to them, “I find no guilt in Him. But you have
a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover;
do you wish then that I release for you the King of the Jews?”
So they cried out again, saying, “Not this Man, but Barabbas.”
Now Barabbas was a robber.

John 19:1-5

Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him.

And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him; and they began to come up to Him and say, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and to give Him slaps in the face.

Pilate came out again and said to them, “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.”

Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold, the Man!”

John 19:6-9

So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, “Crucify, crucify!” Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.” The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out to be the Son of God.” Therefore when Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid; and he entered into the Praetorium again and said to Jesus, “Where are You from?”
But Jesus gave him no answer.

John 19:10-12

So Pilate said to Him, “You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?”

Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”

As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews cried out saying,

“If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar.”

John 18:13-16

Therefore when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.

Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews,

“Behold, your King!” So 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.”

So he then handed Him over to them to be crucified.”

Main Idea

Jesus' serenity amid the hypocrisy and abuse of those savages in power who were pretending to do justice demonstrated His sovereignty and assures us of hope in Him.

Serenity amid Savages

The Jew's heinous hypocrisy



The Jews' Heinous Hypocrisy

Straining out gnats and
swallowing camels.

Matthew 23:24

“You blind guides, who strain out a gnat
and swallow a camel!”

John 18:28

Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover.

Straining the out the gnat!

John 18:28

Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium,

and it was early; and **they themselves did not enter
into the Praetorium so that they
would not be defiled,**

but might eat the Passover.

Swallowing a camel!

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John 19:7

The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out to be the Son of God.”

Straining out the gnat!

John 19:7

The Jews answered him, “**We have a law,**
and by that law He ought to die because
He made Himself out to be the Son of God.”

Swallowing a camel!

John 19:6

So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him,
they cried out saying, “**Crucify, crucify!**”

John 19:7

The Jews answered him, “We have a law,
and by that law He ought to die because
He made Himself out to be the Son of God.”

These religious leaders were scrupulous about keeping every detail of the Law, including their many added traditions, while they broke the very heart of it.

The Jews' Heinous Hypocrisy

Straining out gnats and swallowing camels.

Trading the Peacemaker
for a peacebreaker.

John 1:38-40

And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, "I find no guilt in Him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover; do you wish then that I release for you the King of the Jews?"

So they cried out again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas."
Now Barabbas was a robber.

John 1:38-40

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Now Barabbas was an insurrectionist.

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Now Barabbas was an insurrectionist.

Mark 15:7

The man named Barabbas had been imprisoned with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the insurrection.

An epitome of hypocrisy!

The Jews had handed Jesus over to Pilate under the charge that He was a threat to Rome as an insurrectionist.

Luke 23:14

“You brought this man to me as one who incites the people to rebellion...”

An epitome of hypocrisy!

Yet they were glad to trade Him
for Barabbas who was a notorious
insurrectionist and murderer.

Matthew 27:16

At that time they were holding a **notorious prisoner**,
called Barabbas.

An epitome of hypocrisy!

They traded *the* Peacemaker for
a known peacebreaker!

The Jews' Heinous Hypocrisy

Straining out gnats and swallowing camels.

Trading the Peacemaker for a peacebreaker.

Faking fidelity.

John 19:12

“If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar;
everyone who makes himself out to be a king
opposes Caesar.”

John 19:12

“If you release this Man, **you are no friend of Caesar;**
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John 19:12

“If you release this Man, **you are no friend of Caesar;**
everyone who makes himself out to be a king
opposes Caesar.”

Implied in their charge is the claim that they
were acting as friends of Caesar and only
seeking to protect Rome from a threat.

John 19:15

The chief priests answered,

“We have no king but Caesar.”

The Jews hated Rome and were only faking their fidelity as a transparent ploy to get what they wanted.

In all of this, let us take note:

We all do what we do because we want what we want!

Serenity amid Savages

The Jew's heinous hypocrisy

Pilate's abusive authority



Pilate's Abusive Authority

His contemptuous complicity.

Pilate's Contempt

John 18:31

Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law."

John 18:35

Pilate answered, "*I am not a Jew, am I?*"

John 19:14 and 15

And he said to the Jews, "Behold, **your King!**"
Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify **your King?**"

Pilate's Contempt

John 19:21-22

So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate,
“Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews’;
but that He said, ‘I am King of the Jews.’”
Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

Throughout this whole interaction, Pilate showed his contempt for the Jews and especially for their religious leaders; yet while having the authority to shut it all down and knowing that they were acting out of jealousy, he continued to go along with their charade.

Pilate's Compliance

John 18:29

Therefore **Pilate went out to them** and said...

John 18:33

Therefore Pilate **entered again** into the Praetorium,
and summoned Jesus...

John 18:38-39

And when he had said this, **he went out again** to the Jews
and said to them, "I find no guilt in Him."

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John 18:38-39

And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews
and said to them, "I find no guilt in Him. But..."

And so it went!

Pilate's Abusive Authority

His contemptuous complicity.

His cowardly injustice.

Pilate knew Jesus to be innocent!

John 18:38

And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, **“I find no guilt in Him.”**

John 19:4 and 6

Pilate came out again and said to them,
“Behold, I am bringing Him out to you
so that you may know that **I find no guilt in Him.**”

“Take Him yourselves and crucify Him,
for **I find no guilt in Him.**”

Knowing Jesus' innocence and knowing the Jew's wicked motives, Pilate still brutalized Jesus and had Him crucified out of self-serving fear.

Matthew 27:24

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.”

Mark 15:15

Wishing to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas for them, and after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.

Luke 23:20-24

Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again...

but they were insistent, with loud voices asking that He be crucified. And their voices began to prevail.

And Pilate pronounced sentence
that their demand be granted.

Out of self-serving fear of man,
Pilate abused his power and committed
a gross act of cowardly injustice.

But we must not scoff at Pilate's
choice and neglect to recognize our
own susceptibility to social pressure!

Serenity amid Savages

The Jew's heinous hypocrisy

Pilate's abusive authority

Jesus' serene sovereignty



Jesus' Serenity

John 19:9

But Jesus gave him no answer.

Jesus' Serene Sovereignty

Jesus' quiet kingdom

John 18:36-37

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”

“So You are a king?” Jesus answered,
“You say correctly that I am a king.”

John 18:36-37

Jesus answered, “**My kingdom** is not of this world.

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John 18:36-37

Jesus answered, “**My kingdom is not of this world.**

If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews;

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"So You are a king?" Jesus answered,
"You say correctly that I am a king."

If My kingdom were like yours,
I would be acting like you.

Jesus' kingdom is not derived from worldly forces and does not function in a worldly manner; nevertheless, though He brings His kingdom in quietly, yet He *does* bring it in!

He is THE Sovereign over all!

Jesus' Serene Sovereignty

Jesus' quiet kingdom.

Jesus' controlled compliance.

John 18:36

“If My kingdom were of this world,
then My servants would be fighting so that
I would not be handed over to the Jews.”

John 18:36

“If My kingdom were of this world,

then **My servants would be fighting** so that

I would not be handed over to the Jews.”

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“If My kingdom were of this world,

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Jesus’ retinue consisted of far more than just the eleven who had accompanied Him to Gethsemane.

Who was really in control?

John 19:10-11

So Pilate said to Him, “You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?”

Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above.”

So, who was in control?

John 10:17-18

“I lay down My life so that I may take it again.
No one has taken it away from Me,
but I lay it down on My own initiative.”

At every step, Jesus' compliance with
the powers around Him was voluntary.

He was in control!

It is likely that Jesus' serenity amid such hypocrisy and abuse of authority unnerved them because it testified to *His* great power.

But to us it also testifies to the sure hope we have in Him.

Serene Sovereignty

Jesus' quiet kingdom.

Jesus' controlled compliance.

Our sure hope.

John 18:37

Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?”
Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king.
For this I have been born, and for this I have come
into the world, to testify to the truth.
Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

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Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king.
For this I have been born, and for this I have come
into the world, to testify to the truth.

**Everyone who is of the truth
hears My voice.”**

Have you heard Christ's voice,
have you believed that He is the
Savior and the Lord?

Then you belong to the Sovereign
King who will not fail to redeem you!

Conclusion

We are all tempted to hypocrisy; let us humble ourselves by looking to Christ.

We are all susceptible to the fear of man; be strengthened by looking to Christ.

Our eternal hope is found in Christ alone who is the sovereign King of kings and our sure Redeemer – look to Him!