

Series: Simply Jesus

Title: The Fairness of Calvary

Text: (John 18-19)

The darkest moment of Human History

I. Jesus Arraigned Before Pilate: (18:28-32)

28 Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.

They added 600+ rules to the Word of God.

One of them is they would be ceremonially unclean by entering the house of a gentile.

This is why they called Jesus the friend of Sinners, because he would visit their homes.

The Gospel was never meant to be relegated to certain spaces.

29 Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? 30 They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee.

That was not an answer to his question:

Falsely accused w/o corroborating testimony.

You can start to see the limit of Pilate's grip on power.

He had troops, but not enough to put down an all out rebellion.

He had to have the cooperation of the Jewish leadership for him to maintain control

That why he allowed such insolent behavior from the Jews.

31 Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:

Pilate was not interested in getting pulled into their internal religious disputes.

32 That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die.

Crucifixion was the Roman preferred method of punishment.

Crucifixion did not originate with the Romans, The Romans learned from the people of Carthage. It was long, slow, painful, & publicly intimidating.

II. Pilate Arraigned Before Jesus: (18:33-37)

33 Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?

Pilate must have thought he could put an end to this quickly.
He was expecting a Yes/No answer & be done with it.
Jesus doesn't give Pilate the chance for a simple dismissal.

34 Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?

PILATE IS ON TRIAL!

THE #1 Question of all Time!

(Matt 16:15) “Whom do ye say that I am?”

You have to get this one right!

Only 3 Possible Answers. LIAR, LUNATIC, LORD!

35 Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me:

BOOM! Epic Fail!

Pilate blames the Jews for this mess.

what hast thou done?

“Help me kid, maybe I can get you out of this.”

Jesus Explains His Kingdom:

36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Jesus Gives him a Prophetic Response:

37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king.

He will by mocking the Jews in (Jn 19:19)

He will by proclaiming Him King: (Rom 14:11-12)

Pilate should have bowed right then.

To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

(Jn 10:27) *My sheep hear my voice & they follow me.*

III. Pilate's Judgement of Jesus: (18:38)

38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth?

Pilate swam in the swamp of politics where there are no Absolutes, only the truth they spin for their own political advantage.

Pilate declares Jesus Innocent:

And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all. Good Call!

IV. Jesus Arraigned Before the Mob: (18:39-40)

Pilate say: Lets Let the People decide!

39 But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?

Politically: Pilate needed the “People” happy.

Practically: Pilate knew the division between the Priests & the people. (Heb 4:16) they were aloof. Pilate had heard of the fame of Jesus. (Lk 5:15) Politically it was a good gamble/big returns.

40 Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.

This had to have surprised Pilate.

Why did they Reject Jesus?

He didn't come as they expected.

He didn't Comply with what they wanted.

He didn't Concern Himself with their happiness.

He didn't Cower to their Authority.

He didn't Cooperate with their Agenda.

V. Pilate Appeals the Judgement Against Jesus: **(19:1-12)**

1 Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.

Why did Pilate have Jesus whipped?

To Pacify the Mob.

To deliver Jesus from Death.

2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, 3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.

Do You Find It Ironic that they Mock Him:

One day they will worship him. (Rev 14:11-2)

(Rev 19:1-20)

4 Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.

Pilate Re-Arraigned Jesus.

5 Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!

Isn't This Enough?

6 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him. 7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, de himself the Son of God.

8 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;

9 And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer.

Pilate had already failed to obey the Truth he had.

When Go reveals truth to you, He is not going to give you more till you obey it.

(Micah 6:8) *He hath shown thee oh man, what is ...*

10 Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?

Pilate condemns himself.

Pilate knew Jesus was innocent: (18:38, 19:4,6)

Jesus schools Pilate on how authority Works:

11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above:

Power is a Matter of Stewardship!

(Rom 13:1) It is only on loan to us.

(Prov 8:15-16) God gave it, God can take it away.

therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

Those chosen by God, to have the Authority of God, to Judge Righteously, chose to judge unrighteously and will be destroyed.

12 And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.

The Jews had the Goods on Pilate

The Jews are threatening to tattle to Rome/Caesar.

VI. Pilate Acquiesces to the Mob: (19:13-18)

13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. 14 And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! 15 But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him.

Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.

Pilate fulfilled a special purpose in God's plan.

Pilate was still responsible for his choices.

So Are We: (Ecc 11:9)

17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: 18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

Jesus was Crucified on Barabbas' cross.

No-one understood substitution like Barabbas did.

Think about Barabbas for a second. (Jn 18:39-40)

The character of his life was that of a sinner! (Ro 3:23)

The Crime he committed was worthy of Death. (Jn 18:40)

The Court had already passed Sentence! (Rom 6:23)

The Pharisees were no friends of his.
He thought them liberal, weak, and corrupt.
He had no hope, no friend or advocate.

Imagine him standing, just a few feet from Christ as the spectacle unfolded before him.

He fully expected the sentence to be carried out!
Imagine his surprise as the crowd began to call his name.

Imagine he began to motion to them to shout louder.
His excitement began to grow, *"It could happen, this could work."*

Not long though, out of the corner of his eye he notices the vision of Christ just standing there.
Beaten beyond recognition Not speaking, Not moving

He could hear Pilot's question 3 times, *"What shall I do with this Jesus"* Mk 15:12-14
He could hear pilot say twice,
"What evil hath he done? I find no fault in this man"

Was Barabbas finally being recognized as a national hero? **NO!**

Was Barabbas finally being recognized as having the right tactics? **NO!**

Was He finally being supported by all levels of society as a visionary? **NO!**

He was just one of countless souls God had intended to die for. ***Just like you & I:***

It Should Have Been ME! Rom 5:8

(1 Pet 3:18) The just for the unjust!

Illus: I was Switched at the NEW BIRTH!

(Eph 2:1-9) *Dead in our sins & made alive unto God.*

It should have been Me!

Do you understand what substitution Means?

Have you accepted Christ's substitution for you!

- **Atonement** -satisfying the requirements of justice. Barabbas walked out, debts paid in full.

When a prisoner has finished his sentence, It is common to say that the prisoner had paid his debt to society or (atoned to society) for the crime he had committed.

"It Is Finished" "Tetelestai" PAID IN FULL!

"by whom we have now received the atonement."

(Rom 5:11)

"By his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

(Heb 9:11-12)

- **Redemption** - To buy back a person or object which has fallen under the ownership of another. One might redeem a slave to set him/her free.

"...Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold," 1 Peter 1:18.

*"we have redemption through his blood" Eph 1:7
"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity," Titus 2:14.*

"Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." Romans 6:16-18

- **Ransom** - Christ paid the ransom for us.

"the Son of man came...to give his life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28.

"Who gave himself a ransom for all..." 1 Timothy 2:6

- **Propitiation.** - A gift that secures mercy.

A husband who forgets his wife's birthday is prone to give her an especially nice gift the following day as an apology.

Notice that in the case of God and sinful man, God, the offended, takes responsibility to provide the propitiation.

*"Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation..."
Rom 3:25.*

"And he is the propitiation for our sins..." 1 John 2:2.

*"And sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins"
1Jn 4:10*

- **Justification** - To be declared righteous.

"...That we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Corinthians 5:21

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:" Romans 3:20-24.

"Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth." Romans 8:32-33.

- **Reconciliation** - No longer enemies of God.

"...We were reconciled to God by the death of his Son." Romans 5:10.

"...And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:18.

"And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled" Colossians 1:20-21.

No-one understood substitution like Barabbas did.

When you think of Calvary do Think of Fairness?

Was It Fair that Jesus had to die? **NO!**

Was it Fair that Barabbas got to go free? **NO!**

Calvary was not Fair to Jesus!

It would have been fair for Me to be punished:
(Jn3:18-19)

Was Calvary Fair to Jesus? **NO!**

It wasn't Jesus' cross, it was Barabbas's Cross.

Not only Barabbas, It was my Cross (John 18:39-40).

Jesus Suffered:

His civil rights as a Jew were violated.

Falsely Arrested: (John 18:12)

Falsely Accused: (Matt 26:60-61)

Tried w/o Representation

Convicted w/o Corroborating evidence

Sentenced for Political Gain

for the crimes of others.

Jesus Suffered Human Indignities:

He was Sentenced w/o Verdict.

He was Assaulted while in custody: (Matt 26:67)

He was Mocked (19:2)

He was Robbed of His personal property: (19:23-24)

I don't think Calvary was Fair to Jesus:

(1 Pet 3:18) For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Substituted the Just for the Unjust

The Sinless One for the Sinner.

The Immortal for the Mortal.

The Live Giver for the Live Taker.

The Benefactor for the Thief.

The Truth for the Liar.

The Obedient for The Rebellious.

Calvary was not Fair to Jesus, but Calvary is Fair to Us.

- It is RIGHT for us to be punished:

We are Sinners: (Rom 3:23)

We are condemned already: (Jn 3:18-19)

It wasn't just the Barabbas's Cross:

The Cross in the Middle was ours!

Just like the 2 thieves, you have a decision to make.

1 was 3ft from heaven, other was 3ft from hell.

1 chose to be saved, 1 chose to die in his sinful/pride.

Calvary is Fair: The ground is level at Calvary.

Young & Old - Male & Female - Rich & Poor

(John 3:15-16) Whomsoever believeth

All are saved by the Blood on Calvary's Cross.

Is it fair that Jesus was tried unjustly? **NO!**

Is it fair that Jesus endured the penalty of our sin? **NO**

Is it fair that Jesus had to die in our place? **NO!**

LET ME ASK YOU THIS...

Is it Fair that we have heard the Gospel 1000 times, while 65% of the Earth's Pop haven't heard once?

NO!

65% => 4.5billion people w/o the Gospel.

Is That Fair?

Calvary was not Fair for Jesus.

Calvary was a fair punishment for us.

Jesus made it a Fair Atonement for All.