

Series: **FOUR MESSAGES TO THE CROSS**

Title: **The message to the world's authorities**

Text: John 18:28-40; Matt. 27:11-14; Mark 15:1-5; Lk. 23:1-16

What Sign do you need?

What Truth do you seek?

What Authority can you trust?

- Annas and Caiaphas and the council condemn him and bring him to Pilate.
- Pilate recognizes regional jurisdiction and sends him to Herod.
 - **Jn. 18:31**
³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death."³² This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.
- Herod wants a miraculous sign and questions him. Jesus is silent.
- Herod mocks him and sends him back to Pilate.

What sign are you seeking?

HEROD ANTIPAS – THE MAYOR -REGIONAL JURISDICTION

LK 23:6-12

Lk. 23:8

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him.

- Hoping to see him because he had heard...
 - He had heard from the Sanhedrin that Jesus claimed to be the Messiah.

Mark 14:60-62

⁶⁰ And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" ⁶¹ But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" ⁶² And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

- Hoping to see a sign.
 - Sign of what? That he was or was not the Messiah, the Anointed One
- He received no response.
- Pressured by the religious leaders.
 - **Luke 23:10-12**
 - ¹⁰ *The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him.*

- Contempt for him and Mocked him
 - ¹¹ *And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him.*
 - *Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate.*
- United with others against him Herod and Pilate become friends
- ¹² *And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.*

What truth are you following?

PILATE – THE GOVERNOR NATIONAL JURISDICTION

Mt. 27; Mk 15; Lk. 23; Jn. 18

The Conversation

- Jesus initially is quiet to the charges that have been brought against him
 - Remember that they had brought false charges and false witness
 - Jesus did not respond to the lies or defend against lies.

Are you king? (Mt. 27; Mk 15; Lk. 23)

I am King

Pilate asks, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

And He answered him, “You have said so,” and asks, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?”

John 18:37

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

- Pilate uses the phrase King of the Jews over and over to the religious leaders
 - They challenge him on the authority – only Caesar is our king
 - He places a sign above the cross saying in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. “King of the Jews”
 - When challenged He says, what I have written, I have written.

What is truth?

I am truth

John 18:37-38

For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” 38 Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

Who has authority?

I lay down my life

John 19:10-11

So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” 11 Jesus answered him, “You would have no

authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

The Considerations

His Wife – Matt. 27:19

- ...while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream."

His Career – Matt. 27:24

- He gained nothing by pursuing this
 - So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."
- He sought to release him but his job was with Caesar

His Loyalties – John 19:12

- From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."

The Culpability

- He Washed his hands
 - he took water and washed his hands before the crowd,
- He Claimed his Innocence
 - saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Mt 27
- I find no fault (guilt) Lk. 23; Jn. 18

Luke 23:14-16

¹⁴ "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. ¹⁶ I will therefore punish and release him."

- **Jn. 19:4**
Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him."
- Why? What evil has He done?

Mk 15:12-14

¹² And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³ And they cried out again, "Crucify him." ¹⁴ And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?"

The Condemnation

- Delivered to be crucified
 - **Mk. 15:15**
So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.
 - Luke 23 says,
...but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

What Authority can you trust?

CENTURION AND SOLDIERS – THE POLITICAL JURISDICTION

Mk. 15:16-18; Mat 27:27; Lk. 23:36

- Soldiers mentioned
 - A battalion (420 men)
 - Soldiers
 - Centurion

They ridiculed him – He did not talk back

Mk. 15:16-18; Mat 27:27; Lk. 23:36

Mk. 15:17-19

¹⁷ *And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹ *And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him.**

- **Mat 27:27-28**
²⁷ *Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸ *And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ...**
- **Lk. 23:36-37** ³⁶ *The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”*
- Lk. 23 - And they cast lots to divide his garments.

They brutalized him- He did not fight back

Mat. 27:29; Isa 52:14

Matt. 27:29-31 ²⁹ *and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the*

Jews!”³⁰ And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head.³¹ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

- Punching, spitting, tearing out beard, flogging, hitting with reed, nailed him to the cross and pierced his side.
- **Isa 52:14** prophesied - *As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind.*

They Proclaimed Him – He is Highly Exalted

Mk. 15:39; Lk. 23:47

Mk. 15:39

And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

- **Lk. 23:47** *Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!”*

Looking for a Powerful Savior?

Herod wanted a show

- After not getting what he wanted, he cowardly complied with the liars.

Looking for an Absolute Truth?

Pilate wanted the Truth about kingship, authority, eternity,

- Look for a king
- Look for the truth
- Look for authority
- Look for an escape
- But after finding it ...he cowardly retreated to comply with the World

Looking for Trustworthy Authority?

The Centurion Saw God

- After having no desire to even think upon Jesus, he saw the Son of God

FOUR CONCLUSIONS

JESUS IS MESSIAH

JESUS IS SAVIOR

JESUS IS KING

JESUS IS GOD

If you are seeking a Savior...Jesus is the One
If you are seeking a King...Jesus is the One
If you are seeking God...Jesus is the One