

JOHN 19:9-16
PILATE CONFRONTS JESUS!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 19 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

As we have seen over the last few weeks, Jesus has finished the three religious trials and they found Him guilty of blaspheme. That He being a man made Himself equal with God.

From there the Jewish religious leaders brought Jesus to Pilate and here He endures three civil trials. One before Pilate, which we have looked at. Another before Herod, which we again looked at.

And now it is the third and final trial before Pilate before Jesus is crucified.

Pilate has tried everything to get the Jews to release Jesus, to set Him free. And the reason Pilate wanted to let Jesus go was because there were no legal charges against Him, just the religious issues that the Jews had with Him!

To help solve this problem that Pilate had here, he was going to release one of the prisoners, and he took a real winner, Barabbas. He was a bad dude, obviously, he was being put to death, crucified for his crimes.

And here is Jesus, an innocent man and there is Barabbas.

Listen to what Barabbas was accused and found guilty of.

In Mark 15:7 we are told that he was one of several insurrectionists!

Not only that, but he also committed murder in this insurrection!

And in John 18:40 we are told that he was also a thief!

Thus, to the Romans he was a terrorist!

Because of the wickedness of this man, Pilate thought they would let Jesus go and send Barabbas to the cross, to death because he was a murderer and an insurrectionist and Jesus was not, He was innocent!

But they didn't do that, they wanted Jesus to be put to death!

And remember what we closed with last time, here in John 19:7-8, after Pilate told the Jews that they should do what they want with Jesus because Pilate did not find any fault in this man, in Jesus.

And it is after Pilate said that we are told, **“The Jews answered him, ‘We have a law, and according to that law He should die, because He has claimed and made Himself out to be the Son of God.’ So, when Pilate heard this said, he was more alarmed and awestricken and afraid than before.”**

Keep in mind that after the Jews refused to have Jesus released but wanted Barabbas released, Pilate scourged Jesus!

And after He was scourged and beaten, a bloody mess, with this crown of thorns on His head, Pilate thought that they would have compassion on this Man, but they didn't.

We did speak about this scourging that took place and how men frequently collapsed and died as the result of a flogging.

The Jewish historian Josephus says with some pride that he had whipped rebels in Galilee until their entrails showed.

Let me share this following passage with you because it will help show how horrible it was and that we can also see in this Pilate's intention of doing this to Jesus before He was even sentenced to be crucified.

This is what Josephus wrote,

... And when their leaders came into the house, Josephus drew them to the most private part of the house and shut the door, and then had them whipped till every one of their inward parts appeared naked.

In the meantime the multitude stood around the house and supposed that he was having a long discourse with those that were gone in, about what they claimed of him.

He then had the doors set open immediately, and sent the men out all bloody, which so terrified those that had before threatened him, that they threw away their arms and ran away.

- Josephus, Wars, Book 2, 21:5

Now as we read about Pilate it almost seems like he is **NOT** the one in charge, that these Jewish religious leaders were in charge and basically telling Pilate what to do.

And I would agree. You see, Pilate is in trouble with Rome. And he is trying to be very careful not to upset the Jews who could complain to Rome about him or make Rome upset because of what he did, put an innocent man to death! And we will deal with all that Pilate had against him and why he was so fearful of getting another bad report sent to Rome about him as we get into our study this morning.

Just keep in mind that is what we see going on here, Pilate is working with the Jews, trying to appease them with their case against Jesus! But it is not working, and it won't work.

Pilate even tries to wash his hands of this crime against Jesus, but he was just as guilty because he allowed this to happen!

So, as we will see this morning – **PILATE CONFRONTS JESUS!**

The problem with Pilate, as we will see, is he is approaching this confrontation with Jesus with the wrong information, the wrong starting point.

Confrontation is not wrong, as we will see Jesus correct Pilate. In other words, Jesus will confront Pilate and what Jesus has to say is absolutely correct because He is starting with the right starting point.

Let me share this with you and you will see what I mean about confrontation. We are told,

Don Shula, coach of the Miami Dolphins, was talking to a reporter about a player's mistake in practice. He said, "***We never let an error go unchallenged. Uncorrected errors multiply.***"

Then the reporter said, "***Isn't there benefit in overlooking one small flaw?***"

Shula said, "***What is a small flaw?***" I think about that all day long. What is a small flaw?

- Marabel Morgan in *Homemade*, February 1987

Pilate, as we have seen, refused to confront the flaw in these Jewish religious leaders, but now he is going to confront an innocent Man, Jesus!

And in the end, sin will manifest itself because before Pilate looked outward at Jesus, he needed to look inward at himself and then act upon it, he needed to do what was right!

I have broken down the verses we will be looking at this morning into the following main points. They are,

THE THREAT OF PILATE – JOHN 19:9-10

JESUS EMPTIES THE THREAT - 19:11

THE COMPROMISE OF SIN – JOHN 19:12***THE MANIFESTATION OF SIN – JOHN 19:13-15******THE END RESULT – JOHN 19:16***

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 19, beginning in verse 9 as we look at the topic – ***PILATE CONFRONTS JESUS!***

And keep in mind that what we will be reading is born out of the Jewish religious leaders calling for Jesus to be crucified “**. . . because He made Himself the Son of God.**” John 19:7.

And now Pilate is even more afraid, and this is what took place . . .

JOHN 19**VERSES 9-10**

Think about this for a minute. Pilate has all the power of Rome behind him and now this leader is afraid.

And like I have said, it was not that he was just afraid, but it speaks of Pilate being “***exceedingly afraid***” here in John 19:8.

And that is only going to get worse for Pilate, a lot worse!

Why is that?

There are a couple of reasons, and they both probably play a role here. Keep in mind that the Romans worshiped many gods. Even the Caesars claimed to be a god!

And now the Jews are saying that Jesus claimed to be God.

You see, both the Greeks and the Romans believed that the gods and their children often took on human form and they came to interact with mortal men and women on the earth.

So this is probably playing a role in his fear, that he is going to put a god to death. But the reality here is that Pilate is not going to put a god to death, but the Son of God to death, the true and living God He will sentence to death!

So here is a big problem for Pilate. He is not just sentencing a man to death who claims to be King, but God! And he might not fully understand the totality of what he is doing, but he knows he is wrong if he puts this man to death!

Not only that, but in Matthew 27:19 we are told, **“While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, ‘Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him.’”**

Now his wife is saying you need to let this Man go, He is innocent!

All this information that Jesus should not be put to death because He was innocent and yet, the crowds of people drove Pilate instead of God leading him!

And so, Pilate confronts Jesus once again, trying to intimidate Jesus, to get Him to speak, claiming that he has the power to destroy life or to spare it.

So Pilate asks Jesus, **“... ‘Where are you from?’”** John 19:9. And Jesus is silent. He does not answer Pilate.

It seems kind of strange that Jesus does not answer this question that Pilate gave to Him but the reason He didn't answer Pilate is because He already did!

What do I mean by that?

Remember the question that Pilate gave to Jesus back in John 18:35, **“... ‘Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?’”**

And we are told in John 18:36-37 where we are told, **“Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.’ Pilate therefore said to Him, ‘Are You a king then?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’”**

Pilate wanted Jesus to tell him what He did wrong, who He really is. And, in the end, Pilate says, **“What is truth?”**

In other words, ***“Jesus, you may have your truth and I have mine. But make no mistake about it, my truth stands because I am in charge!”***

You see, Pilate refused the truth that Jesus spoke to him, and he walked away. He did not want to hear what Jesus was going to say about the issue of truth. He was satisfied with the truth that he had and did not care if it was real or not.

And we see that happening today. Truth is subjective and I can believe whatever I want!

The reality is that is not true. There is truth and there are lies and just because you believe something does not make it truth. It is truth because it is true, not based upon anyone’s ideas or feelings.

So Pilate was not interested in truth and thus, Jesus was not going to give him more truth or speak this again. He already heard it and rejected it!

Keep in mind that this is a basic spiritual principle. God does not reveal new truth to us if we fail to act on the truth we already know.

And we talked about this a few weeks ago, but people do not believe in truth anymore, and they are 100% sure that there is no real truth out there! But didn't they say that there is no truth out there, so how can they be so sure? Sorry, that is funny to me.

One of the most telling examples is our view of truth in the days we are living in.

Way back in the 1960's, 65 percent of Americans said they believed the Bible is true; today that figure has dropped to 32 percent, and I am sure it is even lower than that.

Even more dramatically, today 67 percent of all Americans deny that there's any such thing as truth. Again, I think it is even higher today!

Also, some seventy percent say there are no moral absolutes.

Do you know what a society that believes that there is no more truth and there is no moral absolutes looks like?

ANARCHY!

You see, if you take God out of the picture, you have no standards to live by except the ones that you have established. But by establishing them, are you not creating moral absolutes yourself? You bet you are!

God has given us standards to live by and apart from those moral absolutes, we are in trouble. Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

Spiritual and moral decline is the fruit of a nation or person who abandons absolutes.

Once absolutes are dismissed, liberties are limited. A decline in spiritual fervor and moral purity always leads to the loss of freedom.

For example, a home or car left unlocked in the past is locked today for fear of robbery.

Indeed, small losses of freedom lead to larger losses of freedom. Without standards based on absolutes, absolutely anything can go.

The threat of stealing moves from your home to corporate America, where in some cases, billions of dollars have been bilked to justify a short-term illusion of success to investors.

Immoral and unspiritual individuals become deceptive and dishonest if allowed to do what is right in their own eyes.

Without boundaries and absolutes, anything can go, and if anything can go, your freedom will deteriorate and eventually be destroyed.

The cultural battle that rages in our country is over the soul of our society. If absolutes win, then our children and grandchildren will see their cherished rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness extended.

Therefore, will we bow to the false promise of freedom wrapped in the guise of no absolutes, or will we expose the lie and uphold God's standards and His definition of absolutes? . . .

- <http://bit.ly/3I1EdUP>

Absolutely. Apart from absolute morals a society will disintegrate, and we are seeing that happen in America today! Thus, we need to be that preserving force to stop our nation from rotting away and the only way that will happen is being involved in making changes in our homes, our workplaces, our communities, our state and our nation!

For Pilate, he rejected God and thus, his truth is what he wanted to believe and thus, he has the power, he is the one in control and no one is going to tell him what he can and can't do!

Sounds like man today!

But notice how Jesus corrects his perspective of this situation, as Pilate thinks that he is in charge of this situation.

VERSE 11

Isn't it interesting how people think that they have power, that they are in control, that they can do what they want!

That is what we see here with Pilate. He thought he had the power and to some extent he did, but that power he had was only allowed by God. You see, he used his power for evil, for doing harm and not for good. And yet God allowed it to fulfill His plan and His purposes.

What evil was Pilate doing?

We have seen that he had the power to let Jesus go, he was in charge. And he knew that Jesus did not do anything wrong that was worthy of being put to death! So the right thing for him to do was to release Jesus, but he was not going to do that!

Why?

Because the fear of man was more powerful in his life than the fear of God. Thus, he let the Jewish religious leaders push him around to the point where he was going to do what they wanted him to do, not what was right.

And by his actions, even though he had power to do what was right, he had no power at all because he did what the crowds wanted him to do!

And remember, he knew that this was wrong, putting Jesus to death. In Matthew 27:24 we are told, **“When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, ‘I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it.’”**

Was that true? Was he innocent of putting Jesus to death?

Absolutely not. He had the power to stop this, but he didn't, and it didn't matter how much he washed his hands, he was guilty!

So Pilate thinks he has all this power, but Jesus corrects him here. Remember, Pilate told Jesus, **“... ‘Do You not know that I have power [authority] to crucify You, and power [authority] to release You?’”** Matthew 19:10.

Jesus is showing Pilate that he has no power of his own, but that power is only granted to him by God. Rome was not in charge. Pilate was not in charge. God is in charge!

This is not only true of Pilate, but all of us. God is the One who enables us to do things and He will even allow us to do our will, but there are always consequences to our actions.

With the tragic shooting at the Baptist church in Texas several years ago, back in 2019, many were wondering why God did not stop it.

I can't answer that, I am not God.

What I can say is that God did allow it for His plans and His purposes and God will use it for good somehow, someday.

How can I know that? How can I be so sure?

I know this because that is what the Scriptures are saying! Yes, God will use even evil to fulfill His plans and purposes.

Look at King Nebuchadnezzar and how God used this wicked King!

Also, remember when Daniel rebuked the King of Babylon, Belshazzar in Daniel 5:22-23. This is what we are told, **“But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.”**

And in Acts 17:25 Paul tells us **“Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.”**

I don’t care how big or small you are, how powerful or insignificant you are, God holds our life in His hand and without Him we can do nothing!

But when man takes God out of the picture, man becomes a god, at least in his own mind.

It does not change the fact that God is God and He is the One who is in control, but man thinks that he is in control of his life.

Let me show you what I mean about man thinking he is in control even when his life is coming to an end!

Way back on Monday, June 11, 2001 Timothy McVeigh, before being executed for blowing up the Federal Building, quoted *Invictus* by William Ernest Henley, a poem published in 1875, for his last words.

The poem was duplicated exactly in his handwriting and given to the warden at the federal death house in Terre Haute, Indiana. These are those words he left behind. And listen carefully because this is man today apart from God, even when their life is coming to an end and they have no control over it, but they still think they do!

Invictus

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.

Under the bludgeoning of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.

- William Ernest Henley, 1875

You see, no remorse, no repentance but an arrogance and defiance that show's he had no fear of God although he was soon to stand before Him in his sin!

That is man today. They deny the judgment, they are in control, and they will do as they please because, "***I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.***" And I guess, in a sense, that is very true!

They have not feared God, they rejected the Lord and God does not send them to Hell, they go there by their own choice, by rejecting the free gift of life that is found in Jesus!

But I will guarantee you this, one second after they pass from this life and stand before the Lord awaiting His judgment, they will fear God and regret the decision they have made!

Let me give you this example, it is interesting what they are trying to do to keep children from knowing the Lord, from hearing about Jesus.

We are told,

Driving kids to Vacation Bible School would become a misdemeanor in Nebraska if a recent proposal by Nebraska Senator Megan Hunt (D) passed into law. Hunt proposed to “amend” a bill that would protect children from adult-themed drag performances (LB371) by striking all the language and replacing it with similar language to bar children from attending a **“religious indoctrination camp”** instead.

Hunt’s amendment (AM74), filed on January 23, defined a religious indoctrination camp as “a camp, vacation Bible study, retreat, lock-in, or convention held by a church, youth group, or religious organization for the purpose of indoctrinating children with a specific set of religious beliefs.”

The amendment would prohibit anyone under 19 (Nebraska’s age of majority) from attending such a camp and declared anyone 19 or older who “knowingly brings” someone under 19 to a religious indoctrination camp to “be guilty of a Class I misdemeanor.” . . .

Finally, the amendment slaps a \$10,000 fine per offense on “any business, establishment, or nonprofit organization that hosts a religious indoctrination camp” and permits underage persons to attend.

The amendment specifically targets Christian parents, churches, and faith-based organizations in its sweeping ban on virtually all youth outreach efforts - including communion, in some denominations. The legislator who introduced the amendment said she did it “to make a point.” “It won’t pass,” tweeted Hunt. “I would withdraw it if it had the votes to pass.”

- <http://bit.ly/3DReZWL>

Okay, if it is not going to pass and even if it did pass you would withdraw it, what is the point?

The point is this. She is testing the water. She is laying the groundwork for what can happen down the road and then it will pass!

But why is she doing this?

What is her point?

She is very good. Listen to her reason why, and when you hear it, you may even agree with it, but we need to really look at this. This is a game for her, she really doesn't care!

We are told,

“There is a well-documented history of indoctrination and sexual abuse perpetrated by religious leaders and clergy people upon children. Abusers within churches and other religious institutions often use events like church or youth-group-sponsored camps and retreats to earn children's trust and gain unsupervised access to such children in order to commit such abuse.”

In other words, because some wolves don sheep's clothing, Hunt suggests shepherds should never gather the flock. It's hard to consider this amendment with a straight face.

Ultimately, by declaring that she would withdraw the amendment if it stood a chance of passing, Hunt herself admits that child safety isn't her true motivation.

- <http://bit.ly/3DReZWL>

Again, if that is not her true motivation, then what is?

Now let's think about this. We can allow children to go to drag shows or have them come to the library to have these drag queens read to them children's stories, that is not dangerous. But it is dangerous for them to go to Vacation Bible School, or youth activities at churches!

How crazy it is but man will do what they want, but behind the scenes God knows what is going on and He has His plans and His purposes, and they will come to pass no matter what man may try to do!

Let me say this. Man may threaten us as Christians. They may pass all kinds of laws to prevent us from doing what God wants us to do.

But make no mistake about it – ***JESUS EMPTIES THE THREAT!***

May we never forget that.

Yes, the world is coming down hard upon us and what we believe, but Jesus is there with us, giving to us His peace during these difficult times, and He will see us through because, agree with it or not – ***ALL THINGS ARE MOVING ACCORDING TO HIS PLANS AND HIS PURPOSES!***

Now, back here in John 19, what does Jesus mean when He says, “**Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.**”? (John 19:11)

He could be speaking of the High Priest, Caiaphas, who turned Jesus over to Pilate.

He could be speaking of Judas who turned Jesus over to the Roman soldiers and the Jewish religious leaders.

He also could be speaking of the Jewish people in general because they should have known better. They had the Scriptures that spoke of the coming Messiah. Thus, they should have recognized when He came. But they rejected Him and now they were calling for Jesus to be crucified.

We don't know for sure, and maybe all apply here. We are all accountable to God and by rejecting Him, we are guilty before Him!

And we see that here also with Pilate, he could not wash his hands of what he was allowing to happen!

What we are going to look at next is this – ***THE COMPROMISE OF SIN!***

VERSE 12

Pilate was trying to let Jesus go, he was afraid not to, but now he is even more afraid to because of the people.

Notice what they are saying to Pilate, **“If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar’s friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.”** John 19:12.

You see, he was going to be in trouble with Rome. In fact, Pilate was already in trouble with Rome and had two strikes against him. He knew that three strikes and you are out!

When Pilate first came to the area, he came into town with his men carrying flags with Caesar’s face on it.

To the Jews, this was idolatry, and they would not stand for it.

So, they rioted, they revolted, they came to Pilate’s house in Caesarea, and he threatened them. He told them that he was going to cut off their heads if they did not leave.

So, what did they do? They exposed their necks in rebellion and many lost their lives.

They sent a letter to Rome complaining about Pilate. ***Strike one!***

Later on, he tried to build a better water system but didn’t have enough funds to finish the project.

So he took the money from the Jewish treasury. And that resulted in more riots, more trouble and more deaths.

And there was another letter to Rome complaining about Pilate. That makes it, *Strike two!*

Therefore, Pilate is trying to be very careful not to get three strikes against him because he knows, strike three and you are out!

Thus, the Jews play their trump card. They know they have Pilate where they want him and there really isn't anything he can do.

You see, if he lets Jesus go, they will send a letter to Rome saying Pilate let this King who mocks the Romans go!

And again, as you look at this you can clearly see that Pilate is being influenced by these Jewish religious leaders, he is letting them tell him what to do or influence his decision by force. He doesn't really seem to have a say in the matter anymore! But he did and he chose wrong!

And what we see here is this – ***THE COMPROMISE OF SIN!***

Once you start down that road it is hard to find your way back and Pilate is going to find that out. And the same is true for us.

Erdman put it this way as he said, ***“You may do today exactly what Pilate did. He is simply an example of a man who lacks decision of character, who does not possess the courage of his convictions, who tries to compromise with wrong, who disobeys conscience through fear of personal loss.”***

How does that apply to us?

How many Christians are for abortion rights?

How many Christians voted for people who are for abortion rights?

How many Christians think that homosexuality, transgenderism and the like is not a sin or that there is nothing wrong with this lifestyle?

And the list can go on but once you start down this road of compromise, it is difficult to come back. Just look at the denominations that have started down that path and where they are today, what they are supporting! And not just denominational churches, even non-denominational churches as well!

We saw what the world is like several weeks ago at the Grammys, where Sam Smith and Kim Petras did their hit song *“Unholy”* dressed like the Devil and it was nothing more than Devil worship!

“This . . . is . . . evil,” senator Ted Cruz wrote on social media while sharing a post from conservative political commentator Liz Wheeler, who similarly reacted: “Don’t fight the culture wars, they say. Meanwhile demons are teaching your kids to worship Satan. I could throw up.”

“Unholy” was a bit too hot for Ted Cruz. Several conservative figures stormed social media in the aftermath of the performance to detest Smith and Petras for bringing a “satanic ritual” to screens across America. The playful and relatively tame “Unholy” performance featured Smith wearing a hat with devil horns, Petras singing from inside a cage and background dancers wearing red outfits and holding whips.

“It’s not surprising to see a satanic ritual at the Grammys,” tweeted right-wing political commentator Matt Walsh. “Satanism is the worship of the self. Much of modern pop music is satanic in this sense. Leftism is satanism. The only change is that now they’re being more explicit about it.”

While many conservatives were melting down over Smith and Petras' performance, the majority of Grammy viewers were celebrating the duo's historic evening. "Unholy" won the Grammy for best pop duo/group performance, making Petras the first openly transgender woman to win in the category.

- <http://bit.ly/3HKkiZc>

Do you really think the Lord is going to let this continue much longer?

How sad that so many embraced this mockery of God and the worship of the Devil. But how many Christians watched this show? I was amazed that there were Christian music artists there getting awards as well. Why would you want to be a part of that!

May we learn the lesson and do what is right, what is good even though it may not be popular, it may even cause us trouble, but it is what is right, it is what God wants us to do!

Again, don't let the fear of man drive you, let the Spirit of God lead you!

In other words, we as Christians need to be careful, because once you begin to compromise your faith you will see – ***THE MANIFESTATION OF SIN!***

VERSE 13-15

Now let me deal with this because some are confused about what time it was as John tells us it was "**about the sixth hour**" and Mark tells us it was "**the third hour.**" (Mark 15:25)

At this point here in John it is the sixth hour or about 6 am. Mark is telling us that Jesus was crucified at the third hour or about 9 am. John is using Roman time and Mark is using Jewish time. That is the difference between the two and what each one is looking at.

Now as you read these verses you can clearly see what a sad picture that has been painted here.

We see the compromise of two groups of people you might say.

First of all, there was Pilate.

He knew Jesus was innocent. He knew that there was nothing to convict Him on and thus, Jesus should never have been found guilty at this judgment seat and thus, He should have let Jesus go.

But the crowds drove Pilate to do this, and that compromise of sin is leading to the manifestation of sin as he will make a guilty judgment upon Jesus.

The other group of people, and this was a group, was the Jewish religious leaders and the crowds of Jews that had gathered for this inquisition!

The Jews also did not have a reason to put Jesus to death, although some may argue that He being a man claimed to be God.

Yes, that is what Jesus taught over and over again, but it was the truth. And they should have known this because their Scriptures were very clear on this. And even when Jesus challenged them to look at the Scriptures, they refused to see that they were speaking of Him, God becoming flesh to dwell among them and to die for their sins.

I will show you in Isaiah chapter 53, just one point, and they do not even read this passage in the Synagogues anymore because it is so controversial. They know it speaks of the Messiah; it speaks of Jesus.

In Isaiah 53:4-6 we are told, **“Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”**

I think this is very clear. The Father judged our iniquity as it was laid on the Son!

That is the reality.

Now for many, especially the Jews, they have a problem with Isaiah 53:6. And the reality is, they have a problem with this whole chapter including the last few verses of Isaiah chapter 52.

They try to tell us that Isaiah is speaking of the nation of Israel. But think about it, when was the nation of Israel without sin and able to bear the sins of the world? The Scriptures speak of them being rebellious and stiff-necked, and thus, this is not Israel. This is speaking of Jesus!

From His 1980 book *“You Take Jesus, I’ll Take God”* Samuel Levine, a Jewish scholar, wrote, “As you know, the Jews were in Israel for around 1000 years before Jesus appeared. They had a definite concept of what the Messiah would be like-there was a status quo regarding the nature of the Messiah. The Christians appeared and introduced an entirely different picture of what the Messiah would be like (Son of God, God incarnate, born of a virgin, two comings, etc.). Thus, the Christians changed the status quo concept of the Messiah, and so the full burden of proof rests upon them.”

Actually, the Scriptures speak very clearly on these issues and even on what this verse is all about. And yet Samuel Levine says “Many Jewish commentators feel that it [Isaiah 53] refers to the Jewish people on the whole. . . . Thus, Isaiah 53 could very well be describing the history of the Jewish people—despised by the world, persecuted by the Crusaders and the Spanish Inquisition and the Nazis, while the world silently watched. . . . The verses do not point exclusively to Jesus, or to a Messiah. . . .”

That is an interesting statement because a 16th century Rabbi, Moshe el Sheikh said of Isaiah 53, “Our Rabbis with one voice accept and affirm the opinion that the prophet is speaking of the King Messiah, and we shall ourselves also adhere to the same view.”

Not only that but in the 14th century Rabbi Moshe Cohen Crispin said this in regards to applying the suffering servant of Isaiah 53 to the nation of Israel, that it “Distort[s] the verses of their natural meaning. . . . As then it seemed to me that the doors of literal interpretation [of Isaiah 53] were shut in their face, and that they wearied themselves to find the entrance’, having forsaken the knowledge of our teachers, and inclined after the ‘stubbornness of their own hearts’ and of their own opinion, I am pleased to interpret it, in accordance with the teaching of our Rabbis, of the King Messiah. . . . This prophecy was delivered by Isaiah at the divine command for the purpose of making known to us something about the nature of the future Messiah, who is to come and deliver Israel.”

And lastly, one writer put it like this. He wrote,

Isaiah's prophecy is the clearest description that the Hebrew Scriptures offer concerning the identity of the Messiah. The rabbis, since the middle of the 11th century have claimed this passage is referring to the Jewish people as a whole, but the dominant rabbinical position for centuries was that it spoke of the Messiah. Why the shift? Because the man Isaiah describes fits Yeshua completely. . . .

If it were not for the fact that Yeshua looks so much like this man, would any scholar not immediately conclude that this passage refers to the Messiah? Of course not. Isaiah, 700 years before Yeshua, described in detail that Jewish man portrayed in the New Covenant, Yeshua.

- <https://bit.ly/32f9xqZ>

You see, there is no other way to interpret Isaiah 53, it must be speaking of the Messiah, for only a perfect sacrifice, without spot or blemish could pay the penalty for our sins, as we are told in I Peter 1:18-19, "**Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from you aimless conduct received by the tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**"

But again, they compromised their faith to believe what they wanted and that compromise of sin lead to this manifestation of sin in their lives.

Look at how they are behaving here, what they are saying!

First, keep in mind that the Caesar's were deified, thought of as gods and once a year you would have to bow the knee and say, "*Caesar is lord.*"

Because of that many Christians were put to death because they refused to bow the knee to anyone but Jesus!

Now for the Jews, their hatred for Jesus was so intense that they were willing to make this statement which was in defiance against God!

Notice what they cried out to Pilate! They cried out, “**We have no king but Caesar!**”

Isn't that interesting.

I thought that they worshiped the true and living God and Him alone. But this is what hatred can do and does do. You can end up doing and saying all kinds of things and some of them may be pretty ugly.

Thus, be careful, walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh!

Don't compromise what you believe. Don't start out on that road because what we see here with Pilate and the Jewish religious leaders and crowds of Jews is that this compromise of sin lead to this ugly manifestation of sin.

And that leads to – ***THE END RESULT!***

VERSE 16

Here we see – ***THE END RESULT OF SIN!***

What is the end result of sin?

It is – ***DEATH AND DESTRUCTION!***

We see that in marriage where a spouse cheats, commits adultery and how it brings death and destruction to a marriage.

We see that in relationships where envy, strife and the like bring about death and destruction to those relationships.

We see that with drugs, alcohol and how that brings about death and destruction to family and friends.

And we can go on, but I am sure we have all experienced what happens with sin and how devastating it is.

That is why we are not to go down that path in the first place. And if you are heading down that path, repent and get right with the Lord before death and destruction happens to your family and friends.

Now, look again and what John tells us here in John 19:16, **“So he [Pilate] delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away.”**

Keep in mind that four Roman soldiers were in charge of a prisoner, and one would walk in front carrying a sign with the prisoners' charges.

The prisoner himself would carry the 100-pound cross beam through the streets, taking the longest route to Golgotha so others could see what happens to those who defy the power of Rome. It was an incentive so others would not travel down that same path.

And they are heading to Calvary, the place of the skull and we will see that next time as we continue on with our study of the Gospel of John.

What I want to focus on here as we bring this study to a close is Pilate. He let sin compromise what he was to do.

He let sin be manifested in his life as he sat in judgment of Jesus, an innocent man.

And now we see what the end of this sin is all about, and as I have said, it is – ***DEATH!***

Now here is the problem for Pilate.

We read in Matthew 27:24, what we have seen already, and this is from The Amplified Bible, **“So when Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but rather that a riot was about to break out, he took water and washed his hands in the presence of the crowd, saying, I am not guilty of nor responsible for this righteous Man’s blood; see to it yourselves. [Deut 21:6-9; Ps 26:6.]”**

But Pilate couldn’t wash away the guilt and sin of crucifying an innocent Man simply by washing his hands in a basin of water.

That is man’s answer to the problem of sin, they are trying to wash away their sin, and that does not work.

What is kind of ironic here is that the One who could wash away Pilate’s sin was Jesus, and yet, Pilate is trying to do what God can only do – ***TAKE AWAY OUR SINS!***

Remember the song, *What Can Wash Away My Sin*. The lyrics go like this,

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this I see -
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
For my cleansing this my plea--
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

Nothing can my sin erase
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
Naught of works, 'tis all of grace--
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

This is all my hope and peace--
 Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
 This is all my righteousness--
 Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

- <http://bit.ly/3JPymM>

It is a shame that as Pilate tried to confront Jesus, Pilate did not listen to what Jesus was saying and the end result for Pilate – ***DEATH AND DESTRUCTION!***

What do I mean by that?

Do you know what happened to Pilate?

History is vague in answering this question, but many believe that he was removed from his position in Judea by Emperor Caligula, and he was exiled to Gaul, (France), and there he committed suicide.

I pray that everyone here, those listening on the radio or the Internet, if you have not made a decision for Jesus, if you have not repented of your sins, that you would do so today!

You see, nothing can cleanse you of your sins except the blood of Jesus.

What you need to do is,

ADMIT YOU ARE A SINNER!

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST!

RECEIVE JESUS INTO YOUR LIFE!

Your prayer may be as simple as this.

Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and my sins have separated me from you. I ask that you forgive me of my sins and be Lord and Savior of my life. Amen!

You see, the work was done by Jesus, and we receive that free gift of eternal life into our lives by faith.

As Paul said in Ephesians 2:8-9, **“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”**

And for all of us, may we not compromise to sin because, as I have said, the end results are – ***DEATH AND DESTRUCTION!***

May we walk according to the high calling by which we have been called and listen to what the Lord is telling us.