

# The Passion of the Christ Movie and Study – Week 4 of 7

## *Jesus is Beaten and Condemned!*

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### General Information:

- Schedule: Saturdays 3:00; Sundays 10:30
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older are welcome to attend!
- *Caution!* The movie is brutal, *but it does portray what Jesus endured for us all!*
- Let us realize the terrible reality of sin *and greatly rejoice in God's gift of salvation!*
- This study will conclude on Palm Sunday and *be excellent preparation for Holy Week!*

**A Summary of our 7-Week Study** (*The 119-minute movie will be viewed in seven 17-minute segments*):

- 1: *Jesus Prays in Gethsemane and is Arrested!*
- 2: *Jesus is Tried by the Sanhedrin; Peter's Denial; Judas' Death!*
- 3: *Jesus Before Pilate, Herod, and Pilate!*
- 4: *Jesus is Beaten and Condemned!*
- 5: *Jesus' Journey to Golgotha!*
- 6: *Jesus is Crucified; One Criminal is Saved!*
- 7: *Jesus' Speaks, Dies, is Buried, and is Raised!*

**Last Week's Study:** † Jesus before Pilate *the first time*, † Jesus before Herod, and † *part of* Jesus before Pilate *the second time*.

### Jesus *Second Time* Before Pilate Included:

- Pilate questioning / examining Jesus *and finding him to be innocent* (Matt. 27:11-14; Mark 15:2-5; Luke 23:2-5; John 18:29-38).
- Pilate offering to *punish* Jesus; then *release* Him (Luke 23:13-16).
- Pilate offering to release one prisoner to the crowd – *either Jesus or Barabbas* (Matt. 27:15-23; Mark 15:6-14; Luke 23:17-23; John 18:39-40).
- Pilate having Jesus scourged (flogged – *beaten hard with a whip, stick, etc.*) As noted last week: “Scourging, though not intended to kill, was sometimes fatal”

CSSB 1595) (Matt. 27:28-31a; Mark 15:17-20a; John 19:1-15).

- Pilate delivering Jesus over to be crucified (Matt. 27:24-26; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:24-25; John 19:16).

### Today's Movie Clip! (51:59 – 72:27)

**Jesus is Beaten / Scourged** (Matt. 27:28-31a; Mark 15:17-20a; *John 19:1-15*)

**NIV John 19:1** Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.

1. **CSSB, 1643, 1536:** “Pilate hoped a flogging would satisfy the Jews and enable him to release Jesus. The Romans used a whip made of several strips of leather into which were embedded (near the ends) pieces of bone and lead. The Jews limited the number or stripes to a maximum of 40 (in practice to 39 in case of a miscount), but no such limitation was recognized by the Romans, and victims of Roman floggings often did not survive.”

The following information (2-4) is from the Journal of the American Medical Association (March 21, 1986 – Volume 255, No. 11):

2. **Scourging Practices:** Flogging (beating) was a legal procedure before every Roman execution, and only women and Roman senators or soldiers were exempt. The usual instrument was a short whip with several single or braided leather thongs of variable lengths, in which small iron balls or sharp pieces of sheep bone were tied at intervals. Occasionally, thin shaped strips of wood or metal were used. For scourging (whipping), the man was stripped of his clothing, and his hands were tied to an upright post. The back, buttocks, and legs were flogged (beaten) either by two

soldiers or by one who alternated positions. The severity of the scourging depended on the disposition of the soldiers and was intended to weaken the victim to a state just short of collapse or death. After the scourging, the soldiers often mocked their victim.

3. Medical Aspects of Scourging: As the Roman soldiers repeatedly struck the victims back with full force, the iron balls would cause deep cuts, and the leather thongs and sheep bones would cut into the skin and underlying tissue. Then, as the beatings continued, the lacerations would tear into the underlying skeletal muscles and produce quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh. Pain and blood loss generally set the stage for circulatory shock. The extent of blood loss may well have determined how long the victim would survive on the cross.

4. Scourging of Jesus: At the Praetorium [the governor's official residence in Jerusalem], Jesus was severely whipped.... The Roman soldiers, amused that this weakened Man had claimed to be a king, began to mock him by placing a robe on His shoulders, a crown of thorns on His head, and a wooden staff as a scepter in His right hand. Next, they spat on Jesus and struck Him on the head with the wooden staff. Moreover, when the soldiers tore the robe from Jesus' back, they probably reopened the scourging wounds.

The severe beatings with their intense pain and great blood loss, most probably left Jesus in a pre-shock state. The physical and mental abuse handed out by the Jews and Romans, as well as the lack of food, water, and sleep, also contributed to His generally weakened state. Therefore, even before the actual crucifixion, Jesus' physical condition was at least serious and possibly critical.

5. Isaiah 52:14 NIV "...many...were **appalled at him** -- his appearance was so **disfigured beyond that of any man** and

his form marred beyond human likeness..."

- a. *appalled [horrified] at him*. "When they saw Christ's suffering..."
- b. *disfigured*. "A term used of a 'blemished animal,' which should not be offered to the Lord (Mal. 1:14)."
- c. *Beyond that of any man*. "His treatment was inhuman" (CSSB, 1096).

<sup>2</sup> The soldiers twisted together a crown of **thorns** and put it on his head. They clothed him in a **purple** robe...

6. *thorns*. "A general term relating to any thorny plant." *purple*. A color used by royalty" (CSSB, 1643).

<sup>3</sup> and went up to him again and again, saying, "**Hail, king of the Jews!**" And they struck him in the face.

7. Earlier Jesus had said to Pilate: "You are right in saying I am a king" (18:37). Therefore, the soldiers, *obviously not recognizing Jesus' true kingship*, mocked His claim!

<sup>4</sup> Once 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." <sup>5</sup> When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "**Here is the man!**"

8. Pilate had apparently hoped that Jesus' appearance would shock the people into sympathy for Jesus, which would then allow Pilate to release Him without any resistance from the crowd. However, *their response was the opposite!*

<sup>6</sup> 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."

9. Pilate wanted out of the whole situation with Jesus, even if it meant allowing the Jews to do something unlawful by putting Jesus to death themselves!

<sup>7</sup> The Jews insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the **Son of God.**”

10. Many called Jesus the Son of God:

- a. Demons – Matt. 8:29
- b. Jesus’ disciples – Matt. 14:33
- c. The centurion who was near Jesus’ cross – Matt. 27:54
- d. Mark – Mark 1:1
- e. The angel, Gabriel – Luke 1:35
- f. John the Baptizer – John 1:34
- g. Nathanael – John 1:49
- h. Martha, the sister of Lazarus and Mary – John 11:27
- i. John – John 20:31 (with other references in 1 John and Revelation)
- j. Paul – Acts 9:20
- k. The writer of Hebrews – 4:14

<sup>8</sup> When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, <sup>9</sup> and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> “Do you refuse to speak to me?” **Pilate said. “Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”** <sup>11</sup> **Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.”**

11. Some government leaders proceed as if they are God, *but others know the truth:* “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God” (Rom. 13:1 NIV).

**“Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”**

12. Who handed Jesus over to Pilate? “Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor” (Matt. 27:1-2 NIV). **But who is “the one”?** Caiaphas was the high priest, *the leader of those noted above.*

<sup>12</sup> **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.**”**

13. Pilate wanted to release Jesus; however, at the same time, he wanted to protect his own position and life, *so he gave into the demands of the crowd!*

<sup>13</sup> When 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).

14. Though not recorded by Luke, Matthew included this incident with Pilate’s wife: “While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him” (Matt. 27:19 NIV).

<sup>14</sup> It was **the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour.**

15. CSSB, 1644: “Normally Friday was the day people prepared for the Sabbath. Here the meaning is Friday of Passover week.”

16. What preparation was necessary? Things needed to be done in advance, which *could / should not* be done on the Sabbath: “Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates” (Exodus 20:9-10 NIV).

17. The “**sixth hour**” is a reference to *Roman time*, rather than Jewish time; therefore, Jesus was tried about 6:00 a.m., crucified about 9:00 a.m., and died about 3:00 p.m.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

**Jesus is Condemned / Handed Over to be Crucified** (*Matt. 27:24-26; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:24-25; John 19:16*)

<sup>NIV</sup> **Matthew 27:24** When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, **he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd**. “I am innocent of this man's blood,” he said.

18. *Though only recorded by Matthew*, Pilate tried to make himself *appear* innocent of Jesus’ blood. However, *he was guilty* because he finally gave permission for the innocent God-Man to be crucified!

“It is your responsibility!” <sup>25</sup> All the people answered, “**Let his blood be on us and on our children!**”

19. Who took responsibility for Jesus’ death?  
All the people who were gathered in Pilate’s court on that Good Friday morning.

Those words *of taking responsibility* are so controversial that the crowd shouts them in the movie in Aramaic, *but the caption of what they said was removed before the movie was released!*

<sup>26</sup> Then he released Barabbas to them. But **he had Jesus flogged**, and handed him over to be crucified.

20. The *flogging* mentioned above is the same one as noted in *number 1* on *page 1* in connection with John 19:1.

### Other Thoughts:

21. Satan was depicted in more than one scene; he appeared to be happy to see Jesus suffer so much, but think about **Hebrews 2:14 NIV**: “Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil...”
22. How terrible is sin? So terrible that the very Son of God had to endure what He did for us and our salvation!
23. It was certainly traumatic for Mary to see Jesus suffer the way He did. When Jesus was an infant, Simeon spoke this prophecy about Mary: “**And a sword will pierce your own soul too**” (Luke 2:35 NIV).
24. Pilate’s wife giving the white cloths to Mary, Jesus’ mother, and Mary Magdalene is not in the Bible.
25. Flashback to Jesus washing the disciples’ feet in the upper room; Jesus showed His followers how to *serve*, how to *suffer*, and how to *die!*
26. Jesus’ blood being wiped up is not in the Bible; however, Martin Luther reminds us about *the value of Jesus’ blood* with these words: “Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood...” (Apostles’ Creed, Second Article Explanation).
27. Though the movie portrays Mary Magdalene as the woman caught in adultery (John 8:2-11), the Bible does not (Luke 8:1-3).

**Next Week: Jesus’ Journey to Golgotha!**