

Luke 3; John 18; Luke 23

What Was the Perspective of Pilate on Jesus?

Services: Wednesday, March 15 at 11:00 & 7:00

Church Year: Third Wednesday of Lent – 2017

Wednesdays of Lent: Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Already, *on this third Wednesday of Lent*, the topic has taken us to the morning of Good Friday – *both a horrible day and a wonderful day!*

We now focus on Pontius Pilate: ♦who he was, ♦how he reacted to the Jewish leaders, ♦his questioning of Jesus, ♦his desire to release Jesus, and ♦his order to crucify Jesus.

1. **Pilate was the Governor of Judea**: ^{ESV} **Luke 3: 1** In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee... ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. // Those were the key leaders when John was called to prepare the way for the Christ. The Bible is not filled with made-up stories, *but with true history!*
2. **Jesus is Delivered to Pilate**: ^{ESV} **John 18: 28** Then [the Jewish leaders] led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early [Friday] morning... ²⁹ ... Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ...

- a. **Luke 23:**² “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.”
- b. **John 18:**³⁰ “If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.”

John 18:³¹ 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. // Earlier Jesus had said, “I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself” (John 12:32 ESV), thus *pointing ahead to His crucifixion!*

3. **Pilate Questioned Jesus:** **John 18:**³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?”³⁵ Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?”³⁶ Jesus answered, “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.”³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. 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?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “**I find no guilt in him.**” // Truth is important, *it sets us free from the condemnation we all*

deserve (John 8:31-32); then, for those who have been set free, they LISTEN to Jesus! Are YOU listening, thus **hearing, understanding, believing, and applying?**

4. **More Accusations by the Jewish Leaders:** ^{ESV} **Luke 23:**
⁵ “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.” ⁶ When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean [*because Pilate was looking for a way out of having to deal with Jesus*].
⁷ And when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod... [*Herod the Great is the person who tried to kill Jesus as an infant; this reference is to Herod Antipas, a son of Herod the Great and the one who had John the Baptist beheaded.*] ⁹ ... [Herod] questioned [Jesus] at some length, but he made no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him [*yet even Herod would not take action*]. ¹¹ And Herod with his soldiers treated [Jesus] with contempt [*disrespect*] and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid [*bright*] clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. // The Jewish leaders wanted Jesus dead, yet, *so far*, no one was willing to take action to crucify Jesus.
5. **Pilate Wanted to Release Jesus:** **Luke 23:** ¹³ Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, “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... Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. ¹⁶ I will therefore punish and release him.” [*Scourge* – “The victim of a scourging was bound to a post..., stripped of his clothing, and beaten with the flagellum from the shoulders to the loins (the

flagellum was a whip-like instrument that was intended to tear the skin). *The beating left the victim bloody and weak, in unimaginable pain, and near the point of death”* www.TruthMagazine.com].

¹⁷ ¹⁸ But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas” ... ²⁰ Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, ²¹ but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” ²² A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” // Pilate did have Jesus scourged, *hoping to* ♦*appease the crowd* and ♦*set Jesus free*, but the crowd, *spurred on by the Jewish leaders*, would **not** back down.

6. **Pilate Gave the Order to Crucify Jesus:** **Luke 23:** ²³ [The people] were... demanding with **loud cries** that [Jesus] should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder..., but he delivered Jesus over to their will. // Let’s be honest, we are like that murderer – we deserve death, **but** *Jesus died for all of us!*

Conclusion: In the Apostles’ Creed we confess that Jesus “suffered under Pontius Pilate...” Since Pilate ✓ was the governor, ✓ knew Jesus was innocent, and ✓ had the authority to release Him, *he should have, but he did not*. **Do we know what is right? Yes!** So let us ♦*turn from our sins*; then, let us ♦*rejoice in God’s gift of forgiveness through Jesus!*

Let us pray: Dear Jesus, You endured everything for us; now, help us to grow in knowing You and living for You! Amen!

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230