

THE ROMAN TRIAL

--MARK 15:1-15--

INTRODUCTION:

In our passage today we meet another participant in the death of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God. Pontius Pilate was appointed by emperor Tiberius in 26 A.D. and was responsible to command the Roman military, collect taxes, and sit as judge in legal matters. Pilate was the only one in the region of Judea, Samaria, and Idumea who could condemn someone to death. The Jewish Sanhedrin could recommend the death penalty to the governor, and he would judge whether their case and their evidence warranted the death penalty. This is what we find in our passage this morning, after the illegal night trial of Jesus and the verdict of guilty of blasphemy, the Sanhedrin must now convince Pilate to execute Jesus.

I. JESUS BEFORE PILATE (Mark 15:1-5)

- a. The illegal _____ at the house of Caiaphas ended between 3:00 and 4:00 a.m.
- b. This early morning consultation made up the _____ phase of the Jewish portion of Jesus' trial.
- c. Having finished their early morning consultation, Jesus was bound again and led away and _____ to Pilate.
- d. John 18:28 describes for us the _____ of the religious leaders that delivered Jesus to Pilate. (John 18:28-32)
- e. Luke tells us that the religious leaders tried to make Jesus appear to Pilate as a _____ and as such a threat to Rome's power. (Luke 23:2)
- f. Pilate as governor was staying in Jerusalem during the Passover to maintain order and keep the peace and must have been _____ of Jesus.
- g. Returning to the Praetorium, Pilate approached Jesus, He did not look like a _____, standing there with His face bruised and bloody. (John 18:34-38)
- h. Mark tells us that upon hearing Pilate's verdict, the chief priests began to _____ Him harshly. (Luke 23:5; Isaiah 42:1-2; 53:7)

II. JESUS BEFORE HEROD ANTIPAS (Luke 23:8-12)

- a. As the religious leaders continued accuse Jesus they mentioned _____ in the midst of their rant against Jesus.
- b. Herod Antipas had heard about Jesus, and he was fearful that Jesus might be _____ the Baptist, risen from the dead and seeking revenge for Herod executing him. (Luke 23:8-12)
- c. When Herod finally met Jesus, he was _____.

III. JESUS BEFORE PILATE AGAIN (Mark 15:6-15)

- a. Receiving Jesus back from Herod Antipas put Pilate in a difficult _____ position.
- b. If another _____ report about him reached Caesar, it would likely mean that he would lose his position and be called back to Rome. (John 19:12)
- c. Trying to retain some justice in this situation, Pilate made a final _____ to the religious delegation.
- d. Pilate was still hoping for a way out of this that would leave this innocent man alive, and maybe he could through the annual _____ tradition.
- e. By this time word had circulated that Jesus was on trial before Pilate and a _____ had gathered.
- f. What Pilate did not consider was the _____ the religious leaders had among the people. (Luke 23:18)
- g. Pilate quickly recognized that this crowd could quickly turn into a _____ mob. (Matthew 27:24-25)
- h. The final phase of the Roman trial of Jesus Christ came to an end with a wavering politician _____ to the violent demands of a crowd on the verge of rioting.

CONCLUSION:

This passage seems as if Jesus were on trial before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, but the truth is Pontius Pilate who was on trial before the Son of God. Though Pilate lacked spiritual awareness, he expressed the ultimate question that each and every person must answer, "*What shall I do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?*" Mark 15:12b, NASB95) The eternal destiny of every human

being is determined by what he or she does with Jesus Christ, the King of kings. Those who reject Him will face everlasting judgment, but all who repent and embrace Him by faith as Savior and Lord will be rescued from God's wrath against sin and receive salvation. The passage today is tragic for Pilate and those religious leaders and the people they swayed in the crowd, their hatred, jealousy, prideful unbelief sealed their eternal destruction. What will you do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews, the One who is the King of kings and Lord of lords? Is He more than just your Savior, is He your King and Lord and Master?