

Introduction

1. One of the critical questions of history is *Who Killed Jesus?* (Show Title)¹
 - a. Was time in Europe when Jews were blamed. Read of girl persecuted as Christ-killer.
 - b. Turn tables and say Europeans to blame, for Romans drove nails into hands/feet.
 - c. Truth = you and I killed Jesus, for our sins made cross necessary in the first place.
2. Today want think in different direction. Not who, but why? Why did people kill Jesus?
 - a. People's actions always spring from motives. What were the underlying motives?
 - b. When look at those involved in killing Jesus in Mark 15, we see motives. But more.
 - c. This is not a history lesson. People still reject Jesus today...for same reasons.
3. Those who killed Jesus illustrate four motives for rejecting Him today. (Show)
 - a. This will help you understand people you witness to. May help understand yourself.

I. The Sanhedrin – Jesus makes me angry, v. 1.

A. Driving Force (Show Sanhedrin)²

1. V. 1 = Sanhedrin met night before to try Jesus at home of the High Priest.
 - a. Council of 70 “power-brokers” of Israel. Driving force in crucifixion.
 - b. Others rejected Jesus, but not nearly w/intensity & hatred of Jewish leaders.
 - c. Despised Jesus with such vehemence, been planning murder for long time.
 - d. Natural progression: anger 1 step fr. bitterness 1 step fr. hate 1 step fr. violence.
 - e. At final step. So hated Jesus wanted most violent, painful death possible.
2. You know it is often religious people who get the angriest over Jesus' message?
 - a. Reason so angry at Jesus was because He treated them like everyone else.
 - b. Like sinners who needed to repent & believe gospel like as we all do.
 - c. That's what makes religious people sometimes very angry.
 - d. Like think we're good, religious practices impress God, we are His favorites.
 - e. Lk. 18:9 says *trusted in themselves that were righteous & despised others*.
3. Jesus not flatter them. Preached Mk.1:15. Included Sanhedrin. Needed repent/believe.
 - a. When refused/argued, Jesus didn't hesitate to expose their sins.
 - b. They were self-righteous, power-driven, lacking love/compassion, hypocrites.
 - c. Rather than repenting, when knew Jesus talked about them, sought lay hands on.³

B. Application

1. Still the same today. Most angry response ever got to gospel = church person.
 - a. I was chauffeur for exclusive girl's boarding school in TX. Worked w/teenagers.
 - b. Became really concerned for poor, little rich girls who had everything but Jesus.
 - c. I'd open door for them, cart them around & pick them up again. How can I reach?
 - d. One thing was leave gospel tracts at front of van next to driver's seat.
 - e. One day came out take 1 girl somewhere and oh was she mad. Read the tract.
 - f. She lit into me completely angry over gospel message in the tract. Offended her.

¹ Visual. http://newcreationministry.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/addtext_com_MDQwOTAxNDY1ODA.jpg. 1/17/18.

² <http://spreadjesus.org/HW13/Jesus-before-the-Sanhedrin-spreadjesus.org.jpg>. Accessed 12/7/17.

³ Read Luke 20:19 where very men sought lay hands on Him cause Jesus spoke against them, but feared the people.

- g. Odd? Member of major Christian denomination which largely rejects gospel.
 - h. 1st time I'd ever been so told off, and it was by a religious, teenage girl.
 - i. All I did was leave a gospel tract in plain sight to someone I was giving ride to.
2. **Lesson:** *When we won't believe the message, we'll become angry w/messenger.*
- a. Is that you? Is there something about Jesus that makes you angry?
 - b. Maybe some point in the Bible you can't accept. *I won't believe because of it.*
 - c. Let me just be clear. Jesus is right and you are wrong. That's our message.
 - d. He will be patient with you as you struggle with that issue. He will help you.
 - e. But at some point, you will have to bow the knee to Him. Repent & believe.
 - f. And when you do, Jesus will do all for you that He came to do in salvation.

II. Pilate – Jesus makes me lose something, vv. 2-15. (Pilate Painting)⁴

A. Pilate In Archaeology (Show Monument)

- 1. Critics said this = made up account because no solid evidence for ruler named Pilate.⁵
- 2. In 1961 an Italian archaeologist, discovered a limestone at Caesarea Maritima. Israel. On the face is a monumental inscription written in Latin which is part of a larger dedication to Tiberius Caesar which clearly says that it was from "*Pontius Pilate, prefect of Judea.*"⁶
- 3. Emperor Tiberius reigned from 14 to 37 AD. This matches the biblical timeline that records Pontius Pilate ruling as governor of Judea from 26 to 36 AD.⁷
- 4. Once again, critics are wrong & Bible is right. You can trust this book. Not made up.

B. Pilate's Background

- 1. To understand this interaction we must know something about Pilate's career.⁸
 - a. As Gov. of Judea, he came yearly to Jerusalem at Passover to quell any unrest.
 - b. Not friendly to the Jews. Anti-Semitic. Despised them as defiant/rebellious race.
 - c. Already had several serious run-ins which greatly provoked the Jews.
 - d. He loved nothing more than free prisoner they wanted condemned if possible.
- 2. Pilate was already predisposed against the leaders, & then realized Jesus innocent.
 - a. *You have said so, v.2.* Strange answer. Not yes or no. Yes & No. Not as you think.
 - b. It is a yes w/qualification. *I am King of Jews, but not revolutionary like they claim.*
 - c. Luke tells us Pilate declared Jesus not guilty, so chief priests added more charges.
 - d. So Pilate examined Jesus more, *but Jesus made no further answer...Pilate amazed.*
 - e. Such silence rare in Roman court. Confirmed Pilate's suspicion of innocence.

C. Pilate's Three Efforts to Release Jesus

- 1. Sent Jesus to Herod, Lk. 23:6-12. 3. Scourged Jesus before crucifixion, Jn. 19:1-12.
- 2. Sought to release Barabbas, vv. 6-15a. *Used to release one prisoner...they asked.*

⁴ <https://fineartamerica.com/featured/ecce-homo-antonio-ciseri.html>. Accessed 1/18/18.

⁵ Jeff Lasseigne (2017). *Unlocking the Scriptures: What the Bible Is, How We Got It, and Why We Can Trust It*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books. Chp. 2, #6 Archaeology.

⁶ <http://portelizabethtimes.blogspot.com/2010/08/letters-of-herod-to-pilate-governor.html>. Accessed 1/19/18.

⁷ <https://www.allaboutarchaeology.org/pontius-pilate-faq.htm>. Accessed 1/19/18.

⁸ Hughes, R. K. (1989). *Mark: Jesus, servant and savior*. Vol. 2, p. 190. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books.

- a. Goodwill gesture gain favor release prisoner at Passover. *Passover Amnesty*.⁹
 - b. That very morning large group came Pilate's Hall to ask amnesty for Barabbas.
 - c. Barabbas imprisoned for murder *in the insurrection*, v. 7.
 - (1) Don't know much about this revolt, but Barabbas was a main leader.
 - (2) Group of violent Jews called *Sicari* = dagger-bearers.¹⁰
 - (3) Violent, fanatics, pledged to murder/assassination. Barabbas was like that.
 - (4) Jesse James type idolized as a patriot taking on the powerful for the oppressed.
 - d. Pilate persuaded people would choose mild Jesus over murderer Barabbas, vv.9f.
 - e. Crowd = Barabbas supporters. Never side w/Roman leader over own leaders.
 - f. Realize Jesus a threat to release of Barabbas, not hard for leaders to stir up, 11-14.
3. Pilate was in a very dangerous situation. Offering crowd their choice, gave 'em control.
- a. Riot fever was in the air, last thing Pilate wanted was mismanage a riot.
 - b. Pilate's mentor & political ally, Sejanus, displeased Emperor & was executed.
 - c. *Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas...*, v. 15.
- D. What Do We Learn about Pilate?
1. Was a politician w/o character. Put career before everything – principle/people.
 - a. Tho believed Jesus innocent, willing to sacrifice Him to protect what valued most.
 - b. Pilate killed Jesus because if he didn't, he would lose out on what wanted most.
 2. Many people have same motive under why reject Jesus, have give up what really like.
 - a. All like be comfortable, undisturbed. If Jesus does anything, not leave comfortable.
 - b. Sat privately in my office once witnessing to man w/two serious sin problems.
 - c. Using illegal drugs & living w/girlfriend. Her little toddler living in house w/them.
 - d. Imagine having a little toddler in a situation like that w/drugs flowing in & out?
 - e. When these two issues came up in our talk, never forget what this man said:
 - f. *I can give up the drugs, but I can't live w/o sex.* Never heard anyone so bluntly.
 - g. I explained to him doesn't work that way. Jesus doesn't bargain w/sin, does He?
 - h. Doesn't say if willing to give up drugs you can keep illicit sex. Let's make a deal.
 - i. Repentance is a willingness to turn from all known sin and come to Jesus.
 - j. Never forget young man leaving my office. Know happened? Police caught up.
 - k. Police on to drug trafficking & later on asked to watch house fr. church 2nd story.
 3. Know what happened to Pilate? Committed suicide. Josephus records what led.¹¹
 - a. Pilate ordered troops to attack Samaritans at a religious service on Mt. Gerizim.
 - b. Removed fr. office. Life fr. there went on so bad, took his own life.¹²
 - c. Reading what happened to Pilate, thot of Mark 8:34-37. (Show)¹³
 4. *World says luv self, grab all can, follow ur heart. Jesus says deny self, grab ur cross, & follow me.*¹⁴

⁹ Grassmick, J. D. (1985). Mark. In *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*. Vol. 2, p. 186. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

¹⁰ Barclay, W. (Ed.). (1976). *The Gospel of Mark*. Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster John Knox Press, p. 356.

¹¹ Josephus, F., & Whiston, W. (1987). *The works of Josephus*. (Ant, XVIII, iv, 1, 2) Peabody: Hendrickson.

¹² Recorded by church historian Eusebius. See Hughes, op. cit., p. 190.

¹³ http://images.slideplayer.com/14/4307211/slides/slide_4.jpg. Accessed 1/20/18.

¹⁴ Pastor Francis Chan. http://www.azquotes.com/author/18074-Francis_Chan. Accessed 1/20/18