



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 18:39-19:16
From Sermon 5.4.25

Read *John 18:39-19:16*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: These are Jesus' final moments before Pontus Pilate. Pilate is scrambling to release Jesus—whom he has declared innocent several times. As was covered last week, the trials of Jesus were never about evidence, guilt, or innocence. They were about the total depravity of man. It was Pilate, the Jewish leaders, the Israeli nation, and all of mankind that was on trial. All of mankind is found guilty and worthy of God's righteous judgment. For the sake of the elect, Jesus had to endure all the abuse, suffering, and execution.

1. What were Pilate's three failed attempts to pacify the crowd and the religious leaders?

- Luke 23:7—Sending Jesus to Herod
- Mark 15:6-11—Releasing Barabbas
- John 19:1—Having Jesus scourged.

2. The Significance of Barabbas: From the Mark passage above, for what crimes was Barabbas imprisoned? Robber, murder, and insurrection. He was part of an underground zealot group that ambushed and killed Roman soldiers. This may even be where the apostle Simon the Zealot came from. Barabbas was clearly and legally guilty. The obvious analogy is the Barabbas represent us: the guilty freed by the innocent.

3. Now discuss the emotions and mindset of the Roman soldiers stemming from Barabbas' release. Being far from home and in a hostile, inhospitable land, the Roman soldiers were weary of this unpopular campaign in Palestine. Now, they watch in disbelief as their commander, Pilate, releases a known killer of their fellow brotherhood. All the rage, all the injustice, all the revenge will now be taken out on this mysterious Nazarene in their custody.

4. Many cannot bear to consider (or watch) the scourging & beating of Jesus at the hands of the Romans. Why was it so violent, thorough, & lethal? Due to the depths of our sin and the holy righteousness of God. See Romans 6:23, Isaiah 53:4-6, & Hebrews 9:22

5. Contemplate and discuss the ways in which we are just like... [various personal answers]

...Jewish Leaders: _____

...Pilate: _____

...Barabbas: _____

...The Crowd: _____

6. In verse 11, Jesus told Pilate that those who turned him over were guilty of "*the greater sin.*" Are there degrees of sin? Therefore, also degrees of punishment? Yes. It appears so. Jude mentions false teachers as receiving the blackest darkness. See Hebrews 10:29 about those who hear about Christ and still reject him. On the other side: We clearly see in Jesus' teaching (and the Apostles) there are degrees of reward.

7. Discuss who is responsible for Christ's death.