

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE LIFE OF JESUS

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JOHN S. TORELL

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PART 17: THE TRIAL THAT NEVER WAS

THE TIMING

There were no roosters allowed in Jerusalem since they were deemed unclean. When the Gospels state that the cock crowed, it is referring to a high pitch trumpet that was used to mark the different chores which the priests had to do at the temple. The first sounding was at 3:00 AM, with a second sounding at 6:00 AM.

Having this knowledge we can determine that Jesus was in the custody of the Sanhedrin before 3:00 AM and the mock trial and abuse of Jesus continued to 6:00 AM.

A day in the Roman Empire started and ended at midnight, which is what the majority of nations use today. The Jewish day however began at 6:00 PM and ended the next day at 6:00 PM.

The Roman government in Jerusalem opened its door at 8:00 AM. This means the abuse continued as Jesus was still in the custody of the Sanhedrin for an additional 2 hours.

THE ROMANS

Caiaphas and his cohorts promptly arrived at the palace of Governor Pilate at 8:00 AM. The Jewish leadership missed the irony of condemning an innocent man to death, but when they came to the palace, they had the gall to remain outside because they did not want to contaminate themselves with sin by stepping inside a Gentile building during the Passover week. **John 18:28**

This forced Pilate to meet them outside in order to determine the cause of the commotion. **verse 29**

Caiaphas spoke for the Sanhedrin and lied about Jesus being a criminal. **verse 30**

They accused Jesus of perverting the Jewish people by instructing them not to pay Roman taxes and having declared Himself to be a king. **Luke 23:2**

It is telling that the Jewish leadership screamed their accusations at Jesus and He did not respond at all. When Pilate asked Jesus if He was indeed a king, Jesus simply answered "You say so." **Matthew 27:11-14; Mark 14:1-5**

Pilate had Jesus brought into the judgment hall at his palace to speak privately with Him. **John 18:33-38**

Pilate then told the Jewish leadership that he found no fault with Jesus. **John 18:39**

Pilate received a message from his wife about a dream she had and how Pilate should do nothing to Jesus. **Matthew 27:19**

Caiaphas ordered his rowdy mob to demand the death of Jesus and threaten Pilate with disloyalty to Rome unless Jesus was killed. **Luke 23:4-5**



When Pilate heard that Jesus was from the province of Galilee, he saw a way out and sent Jesus to King Herod, who ruled over Galilee. Pilate vainly hoped that Herod would deal with the matter. **verses 6-9**

The demon possessed Caiaphas led his mob to Herod where they again demanded that Jesus must die. **verse 10**

Herod was a slick politician, and because he wanted to remain in favor with the High Priest, decided to mock Jesus before sending Him back to Pilate. **verse 11**

The misfortune of Jesus was a unifying factor for King Herod and Governor Pilate after years of hostility. **verse 12**

SENTENCING OF JESUS

Pilate knew full well that Jesus was innocent. As the Roman governor, his spies kept him informed of Jesus' many miracles. He also knew the Jewish leadership was envious of Jesus since He attracted large numbers of Jews. **Matthew 27:18; Mark 15:10**

As the Roman governor of Judea, Pilate knew the Emperor in Rome would be unhappy with his performance if there was an uprising in Jerusalem. He would undoubtedly be replaced since it was his job to control the province of Judah. Pilate decided to compromise with the Jewish leadership by having Jesus whipped in order to keep his position and income. **Luke 23:13-16**

Caiaphas went ballistic at the news and whipped up the mob, demanding the crucifixion of Jesus; Barabbas was a murderer scheduled to be crucified and he was released instead. **verses 17-23**

Roman law dictated that a Jewish prisoner should be released during the Passover. Pilate tried to use this as a way to placate the Sanhedrin and escape sentencing Jesus to death. **John 18:38-40**

Pilate ordered Jesus to be flogged in order to satisfy the bloodthirst of the High Priest and his mob. **John 19:1-5**

When the mob demanded the crucifixion of Jesus, Pilate told them to do it themselves. **verses 6-7**

Pilate realized this was not a normal situation and cautiously asked Jesus who He was. He was a powerful and important man and told Jesus as much. **verses 8-11**

Pilate wanted to release Jesus but the Jewish leadership threatened Pilate with insurrection and informing the Emperor of his disloyalty. Pilate was willing to execute an innocent man in order to retain his job as governor. **verses 12-15**

Pilate publicly washed his hands in a basin of water to declare his innocence of Jesus' death and I am sure he still regrets that decision as he sits in hell today. **Matthew 27:24**

Caiaphas' mob answered and spoke a curse upon themselves that still affects all Jewish people to this day. **verse 25**

PILATE GAVE IN

Satan is evil and cruel, delighting in the suffering of people. He wanted to inflict as much pain as possible on the Creator in His human body and influenced Pilate to flog Jesus one more time. This would be a much more severe flogging. **verse 26**

Jesus was turned over to Roman soldiers who hated the Jews. Jesus was a bloody mess with his beard being plucked out and His skin from the neck to the ankles extremely bruised and bleeding from the second flogging. It was an understatement to say that Jesus was in great pain when the soldiers began to mock Him. **verses 27-31**

ROMAN FLOGGING

For many years I have repeated the lie that Jesus was whipped 39 times. A further examination of Jesus' final events revealed that what I had been taught in church was simply not true.

Moses set forth 40 as the maximum lashes that could be meted out as punishment by a court. **Deuteronomy 25:1-3**

In order to not exceed that number, the rabbinical system established that a Jewish court could only allow 39 lashes in order to make sure they did not exceed the legal limit of 40. The apostle Paul was beaten five different times by the Jews after a Jewish religious court had found him guilty and he received 39 lashes each time. **2 Corinthians 11:24**

It is from this background that we have been told in Christian churches that Jesus received 39 lashes.

Jesus was not flogged by the demand of the Sanhedrin, but by the order of Governor Pilate. Roman flogging was totally different from Jewish flogging. Here is the description of the Roman whip known as the "flagrum."

*"The flagrum was a whip with a short handle and generally two or three long thick thongs, each weighted at some distance from their extremity with lead balls or mutton bones. In action, the thongs cut the skin, while the balls or bones created deep contusions. The result was significant hemorrhage and considerable weakening of the vital resistance of the victim. In compensation, if one may call it that, this weakening shortened their agony on the cross."*¹

This reproduction is a full sized copy based on the sketches of experts who have studied both the Shroud of Turin as well as historical artifacts of the



¹ http://gira.cadouarn.pagesperso-orange.fr/english/back_matter/flogging.htm

*Roman Empire from the time of Christ. The wooden handle measures about 8" long, while the leather thongs are of varying lengths (11", 12", 13"). The multiple lengths of the thongs were designed to prevent the balls from striking each other, thereby causing more damage to the victim. The overall length of the flagrum is about 24."*²

The flogging by the Romans was intended to damage the victim to the point that he never recovered and would expedite death when hung on a cross. Roman law did not stipulate how many lashes could be applied to the victim, and according to historical records, it varied anywhere from 100 to 120 lashes. None of the Gospel writers recorded how many lashes Jesus got, but it is likely that He received at least 100. Jesus was tied to a post and with His arms over His head so they would not protect His torso.

IMMENSE PAIN

The pain from the flogging was intense as the skin ripped when the lead balls bruised the flesh. Jesus was not supernaturally protected and must have screamed in agony as blow after blow from the flagrum slowly turned Him into a bloody pulp.

Pilate had proclaimed that Jesus was innocent and could have been merciful enough to spare Jesus from being flogged. But Pilate was a politician, and in trying to please the Jewish leadership, ordered the full treatment that was normally reserved for murderers and people rebelling against the Roman government.

Salvation is free, but Jesus paid an enormous price that we won't fully understand until we arrive in heaven.

This was a happy day for the Devil. More than likely he called for every high ranking fallen angel to come to Jerusalem and watch the humiliation of the Creator and rejoice over the excruciating abuse by the Jews and the Roman soldiers.

God the Father knew before the foundation of the world that this would place; it had been revealed to the prophet Isaiah some 700 years earlier. **Isaiah 53:1-5**

I am sure the events in Jerusalem were broadcast on Satan's network as well as on God's network to every angel in the universe. I am basing this assumption on the fact that there will be a worldwide telecast to show the two slain prophets in Jerusalem during the reign of the Antichrist. **Revelation 11:3-10**

SUMMARY

Jesus was in the custody of Caiaphas and his mob from 3:00 to 8:00 AM. Then He was in Roman custody for the next four hours. During this time Pontius Pilate sent Jesus to King Herod, who returned Jesus to the haggling between Pilate and the Jewish leadership.

It is noteworthy that Pilate never held a trial, he merely pronounced Jesus innocent, but in the end, he surrendered to the demand of the Jewish leadership, and ordered Jesus to be flogged and crucified.

Jesus was not executed; He was murdered! **John 8:44**

² <https://www.indyprops.com/pp-flagrum.htm>

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?