

Review the major things that have happened to Jesus so far in Mark's Passion account.

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15:1-5 (NIV)

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

"Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate.

"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."

But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

What decision did the Sanhedrin reach?

Why do you think Jesus was willing to answer Pilate's question?

Why do you think Jesus was unwilling to answer the accusations from the chief priests?

Why do you think Pilate was amazed?

"I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame" (Psalm 119:46).

How does that passage apply to Jesus?

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15:6-15

Now it was the custom at the Feast to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, knowing it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

“Crucify him!” they shouted.

“Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

What role does Barabbas have in the Passion history of Jesus?

What did Pilate understand about the chief priests?

In what ways did Pilate not help himself?

“Crucify him!” What is so horrible about that cry?

Agree or disagree? Pilate was responsible for the death of Jesus.

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15:16-20

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

*The whole company.* Literally, “the whole cohort” (about 400-600 soldiers, 1/10 of a legion).

How does that number affect the way you view this scene?

Compare the mockery from the Jews (14:65) with the mockery from the Romans (15:18).

What do you notice?

List the injuries Jesus suffered from the Romans.

*Then they led him out to crucify him.* What strikes you about that statement?

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In the Passion account, Jesus does things for us and also teaches us what to do.

Which do you think is more important? Why?

Why is the other also important?

*A crown of thorns thou wearest, my shame and scorn thou bearest, that I might ransomed be.  
My Bondsman, ever willing, my place with patience filling,  
from sin and guilt hast made me free.*

*When evil men revile me, with wicked tongue defile me, I'll curb my vengeful heart.  
The unjust wrong I'll suffer, unto my neighbor offer  
forgiveness for each bitter smart. (Upon the Cross Extended)*