

June 15

Pilate's Last Conversation with God's Messiah

Make crowns, and set them on the head of Joshua...saying, 'Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: and he shall grow up out of his place; and he shall build the temple of Yahweh...bear the glory, and...be a priest on his throne' – Zechariah 6:11-13

[John 19:1-15, Pilate's palace, Thursday]
So Pilate's soldiers then took Jesus into *the court, which is the Praetorium*, and gathered the whole garrison together against him. They stripped him and flogged him. The soldiers twisted thorns into a crown, and put it on his head, and a reed in his right hand and dressed him in a scarlet-purple garment. They *began to salute him, and kneeled down before him, mocked him, and kept saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"* They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head and they kept slapping him. *When they had mocked him, they took the purple off of him, and put his own garments on him.*

Then Pilate went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I bring him out to you, that you may know that I find no basis for a charge against him."

Jesus therefore came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple garment. Pilate said to them, "Behold, the man!"

When therefore the chief priests and the officers saw him, they shouted, saying, "Crucify! Crucify!"

Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves, and crucify him, for I find no basis for a charge against him."

The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God."

When therefore Pilate heard this saying, he was more afraid. He entered into the

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"Behold, the man!"**

Praetorium again, and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Aren't you speaking to me? Don't you know that I have power to release you, and have power to crucify you?"

Jesus answered, "You would have no power at all against me, unless it were given to you from above. Therefore he who delivered me to you has greater sin."

At this, Pilate was seeking to release him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you release this man, you aren't Caesar's friend! Everyone who makes himself a king speaks against Caesar!"

When Pilate therefore heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called "The Pavement," but in Hebrew, "Gabbatha." Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, at about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!"

They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!"

Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

So then he delivered him to them to be crucified. [Matthew 27:27-30, Mark 15:16-19]

1. Why this further conversation? Why was Pilate afraid? Have you felt like this? When?

2. Did Pilate sin? What are your greater sins? Lesser ones? How does God feel about them?

3. Jesus, Yeshua, we flogged you to a bloody mass, yet still you reached out to Pilate; please...