

Pilate on Trial

Problem:

18:33, 37, 39; 19:3, 14, 15 - Jesus is the king and they killed Him

- who could do that?

you could I could.

how? rationalization.

Gen 3:6 - the first act of evil in history was committed through rationalization...so was the worst

everyone likes to think their sin is reasonable

no one thinks they are sinful - so we become

masters at rationalizing our depravity

our rationalizations do not hide our sin to anyone but ourselves... no matter how we dress them up our sin remains sin

we are thus masters at self deception

rationalizing = an attempt to explain or justify (one's own or another's behavior or attitude) with logical, plausible reasons, even if these are not true or appropriate

so was Pilate - he remains a tragedy of self deception on trial for us all to see...

Text:

Pretending to be lawful: "What accusation do you bring against this man?"

John 18:28 ¶ Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, **so that they would not be defiled**, but could eat the Passover. (2 Chron 30:22 synoptic)

John 18:29 So Pilate went outside to them and said, "**What accusation do you bring against this man?**"

John 18:30 They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you."

John 18:31 Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves (emphatic) and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "**It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.**" (they did not care about what is true but their will)

John 18:32 This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

(29) (Legalism)- pretending to be lawful - while planning murder - Jn 5:18; 7:1, 51; 11:53; 12:9-11

why not stone Him? to put both Jews and Gentiles under fault - (Jn 1:9-13 -> Acts 4:27-28) (all gathered against)

Pilate - was a criminal - Luke 13:1 -he went along with it

Pretending to be truthful: "Are you King of the Jews?"

John 18:33 ¶ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "**Are you (emphatic) the King of the Jews?**"

John 18:34 Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?"

John 18:35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?"

John 18:36 Jesus answered, "**My kingdom is not of this world (did not originate)**. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But **my kingdom is not from the world.**"

John 18:37 Then Pilate said to him, "**So you are a king?**" Jesus answered, "**You say (correctly) that I am a king.** For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth (altheia).(this sentence oldest gospel fragment AD 130) Everyone who is of the truth (altheia) listens to my voice."

John 18:38a Pilate said to him, "**What is truth?**"

(relativism)- pretending to be truthful -but truth was standing right in front of him

(37) you say correctly - Luke 19:36-40 even the stones would cry out

(38) truth - 1 Tim 6:13; Jn 3:11, 32; 7:7; 8:14 -> I am the truth - Jn 14:6

(33) Pilate was the one on trial - Jn 3:19-21 (we think we are above it all) -Jesus confronts us all

Pretending to be reasonable: "Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"

John 18:38b ¶ After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "**I find no guilt in him.**"

John 18:39 But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So **do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?**"

John 18:40 They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

John 19:1 ¶ Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him.

John 19:2 And the soldiers twisted together a **crown of thorns** and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe.

John 19:3 They came up to him, saying (imperfect), "**Hail, King of the Jews!**" and struck (imperfect) him with their hands.

John 19:4 Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that **I find no guilt in him.**"

John 19:5 So Jesus came out, wearing the **crown of thorns** and the **purple robe**. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!"

John 19:6 When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for **I find no guilt in him.**"

(find no guilt in this man - (pragmatists) pretending to reasonable - while flogging an innocent man

(39-40) Luke 23:18-19 -same crime -appeasement - homosexuality not about right in marriage -georgia

Pilate on Trial

Pretending to be powerful: "Where are you from?"

John 19:7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law **he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.**"

John 19:8 When Pilate heard this statement, **he was even more afraid.**

John 19:9 He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "**Where are you from?**" But Jesus gave him no answer.

John 19:10 So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? **Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?**"

John 19:11 Jesus answered him, "**You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.** Therefore he (Jewish people) who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

pretending to be powerful - standing before the King of Kings, and angry mob and a legion of angels

((9) mark 15:5 - Pilate was amazed - fearful pretending to be powerful - Isaiah 53:7 standing in front of real power)

((11) authority-> matt 26:53; Jn 10:17-18; (18:32; 3:14; 8:28; 12:32, 33)

((11) he who delivered me to you = greater sin- (Jn 11:47-54) -> Jn 18:31 becomes 19:7 -ciaphas)

Pretending to be loyal: "Shall I crucify your King?"

John 19:12 ¶ From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not **Caesar's** friend. **Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.**"

John 19:13 So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha.

John 19:14 Now it was the day of Preparation of **the Passover**. It was about the sixth hour (roman time). He said to the Jews, "**Behold your King!**"

John 19:15 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."

(traitors) pretending to be loyal - while betraying their post (i find no guilt 18:38, 19:4, 6)

Matt 27:24-25

He crucified the Lord

John 19:16 So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

Main Idea: *the greatest act of evil in all of human history was committed though rationalization*

Implication: *rationalization does not make you more of a sinner it makes you more of a fool*

Prov 12:15-16; Jn 9:41 (their guilt remains)

(they were getting ready for their sacrifice - Passover - Jn 18:28, 39; 19:14)

the entire sacrificial system Lev 1:1-5; 4:32-33

behold the Lamb - Jn 1:29 -> (2 Cor 5:21)

Application: *the foolishness of the cross saves us from the foolishness of our rationalization ->1 cor 1:20-31*

look upon Him and realize your sin is uglier than you think - and His grace is greater than you imagined

Main Idea

Pretending to be lawful

Pretending to be truthful

Pretending to be reasonable

Pretending to be powerful

Pretending to be loyal

he crucified the Lord

Implication:

rationalization does not make you more of a sinner it makes you more of a fool

Prov 1:7, 32; 12:15-16; 14:8-9; 15:14

they were getting ready for their sacrifice - Passover - Jn 18:28, 39; 19:14

the entire sacrificial system Lev 1:1-5; 4:32-33

behold the Lamb - Jn 1:29 -> (2 Cor 5:21)

Application:

the foolishness of the cross saves us from the foolishness of our rationalization

1 cor 1:20-31

look upon Him and realize afresh that your sin is uglier than you think - and realize that His grace is greater than you imagined

Articles for further study:

<http://www.raystedman.org/new-testament/1-john/the-man-who-rationalizes-sin>

<http://www.psalm12outreach.com/2015/03/the-progressive-christian-fallacy-sin.html>