

John 299 “Triumph, Tragedy And Moral Courage” John 18:23-24; 28

A triumph in Rome was a magnificent procession in honor of a victorious general as the highest military distinction he could obtain.

In a Roman triumph, the victorious general entered the city in a chariot drawn by four magnificent horses and he was crowned with laurel and had a scepter in one hand and a branch of laurel in the other.

During this triumphal entry, the priests burned incense to represent a savor to the victor of his triumph and that would remind all present; especially his captives, of their rapidly approaching death in the Roman arena or their final days in the damp dregs of a Roman prison.

Webster defines tragedy as a disastrous event, a calamity or misfortune and while the overarching triumph in our story is our Lord’s victorious procession to the Cross, the grave, His resurrection and ascension on High; Pontius Pilate’s handling of our Lord’s trials beforehand proved to be a monumental tragedy for the Roman governor.

In our context, moral courage would be the demonstration of ethical conduct in exercising one’s duties of authority.

And so, in our study, the Lord Jesus represents strength, Pilate represents weakness and the Jewish leaders represent the wickedness of Satan’s kingdom on earth.

Pontius Pilate will eventually condemn an innocent man and in so doing, the governor himself is condemned!

John 3:18 Whoever believes in Him is not condemned but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

In principle, both the Jewish and the Roman systems were objective but in practice both became subjectively influenced by satanically motivated thought.

When you step into a Roman Praetorium, you are under Roman law; therefore, Roman jurisdiction.

These Jewish leaders are about to be defiled with one of the darkest stains in human history in sending the Lord to the Cross but they’re more concerned with Passover defilement!

The very meaning of Passover is found in Jesus Christ, Israel’s Messiah, the Savior of the world Who is inside, undefiled, pure, holy and fully prepared for His assignment.

Eating the Passover meal depicts faith in Christ.

By going out, Pontius Pilate catered to the Jews.

“If you want to accuse this one called Jesus, you come in here and you do it.”

Pilate actually pronounced Jesus Christ innocent three times!

One of the greatest enemies of the human race is self-serving religion.

Christianity is not a religion but a relationship with God.

Religion is tyranny.