

COMMUNION SPECIAL 02 July 2023 "Behold The Man" John 19:1-11

Flogging consisted of whipping with a scourge which had leather thongs into which was integrated pieces of metal, sharp wood splinters and leather tips with imbedded lead balls with protruding sharpened spikes.

The Romans used this whip two ways; one for interrogation to discourage lying and secondly

for a preliminary preparation for execution.

But since Pilate has already pronounced Jesus innocent, this flogging could never be considered simply an interrogation, it has to be an unlawful punishment issue.

This is where Pontius Pilate failed miserably by taking punitive measures against a Person he himself

had legally declared innocent.

Pilate distorted Roman law to try to get Jesus released while the Jews distorted Jewish law to keep Jesus in custody for the death penalty.

If both of these tremendous systems of law and order had followed their true course, Jesus Christ would have been promptly released.

The crimson or scarlet robe was used to hide Jesus' gaping wounds from the flogging and the purple robe was used to further mock our Savior.

If the Jews had armed themselves and started to fight these Roman soldiers, they would know how to handle the situation but Pilate doesn't know how to handle a subtle attack on his authority.

When Roman justice caters to a mob and takes a prisoner outside in front of them, the judge has already submitted to vicious mob pressure.

No rebellious mob that's ever existed no matter what its cause, good or bad, has ever once in all

of human history made a valuable difference.

Anything a mob accomplishes, right or wrong on the surface is wrong; even if they have a worthy cause, they are wrong due to their approach.

If you give in to a mob, the crime rate will always go up dramatically.

Pontius Pilate's principles taught him that the accused was innocent until proven to be guilty by a court of law and also very importantly, the Romans didn't accept hearsay as evidence and the accused could never incriminate himself.

There was a way for a king to wear a robe in the ancient world and when Jesus Christ wore that robe, it was undeniable that He looked like a king.

A leader never appeases a mob without destroying himself.

They can't see it now with His robe on but His back is torn open raw and bleeding from the repeated whipping with metal, wood and glass shards.

Negative reaction to God can never stand His truth, so it must scream out loud at the truth.

Religion uses mobs to put pressure on organizations and organizations put pressure on mobs to conform to their wishes.

Pilate does not have the moral courage to face this mob because the pressure of the mob has become

a greater power to Pilate than the power of justice.

All the opposition Satan could gather and all human opposition had to come from religion; the devil's ace in the hole; the major way Satan seeks to get his way in this world.

Religious people are very self-righteous and very hypocritical and they love to do a wrong thing in a right way which is what religion thrives on.

Self-righteous legalism has to have an excuse for its actions and in this case, they've cited a law in which Jesus Christ can neatly be removed from the scene.

The possibility that his prisoner was God demands further investigation and this interrogation is motivated by fear; Pilate is afraid for himself.

The occasion for our meeting today is first, the Lord's Table, the Communion Service or the Holy Eucharist which was established some 1907 years ago.

The setting was the Jewish Passover in which Jesus simultaneously celebrated the Last Supper with the Twelve minus one.

On the eve of His death, our Lord is sharing His unconditional impersonal love, His unshakable joy and His non-circumstance dependent peace as He instituted a shift in the Father's gameplan from the Levitical priesthood to our High Priest.

We have three commands involved in the Communion Service: 1. Remember

Mark 1:13-14a "At once the Spirit sent Him out into the wilderness and He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan." Hebrews 2:18 "Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted."

With each testing resisted, the intensity magnified for our Lord.

For the Lord to command us to remember these things about Him is not difficult for those who constantly abide in Him and avail themselves to His Word.

All that we are, all that we have and all that we could ever hope for is because of one Person, Jesus Christ!

We have three commands involved in the Communion Service:

1. Remember 2. Eat 3. Drink

Eating and drinking depict faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as they are non-meritorious functions.

Partaking of the Eucharist has no significance to the unbeliever.

1st Corinthians 11:28-30 “Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. That is why many among you are weak (warning discipline) and sick (intensive discipline) and a number of you have fallen asleep (dying discipline).”

It’s an honor, a privilege and a responsibility to be in Christ so that we can follow Him in keeping

His command to do this in remembrance of Him.