Intro: 1 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. 2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. 3 They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands. 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.” 5 So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!” 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.” 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.” 8 When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. 9 He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. 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?” 11 Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.” 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.” 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. 14 Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” 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.” 16 So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. The Crucifixion So they took Jesus,

I. Stage four: Jesus was tortured wrongfully – 1 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. 2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. 3 They came up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and struck him with their hands.

a. Jesus was brutally flogged

• This was a very hard-core type of punishment. The whip was made of a leather strip with sharp balls of lead or other sharp objects attached to it. It was made for the most painful and the most mental abuse that can be done to the body. It was the Roman custom for the prisoner to be lashed by a centurion with 40 lashes minus for one (39). This was do because if the centurion went over 40, he then would receive the same 40 lashes. Who would want that.

b. Jesus was cruelly mocked

• The Roman soldiers jammed a crown of long, sharp thorns onto Jesus’ head and obtained a purple robe (purple was the color of royalty) in order to mock Jesus’ supposedly kingship. The Roman soldiers mocked Jesus further by bowing before him and striking him. They would have never thought about striking Ceasar, but they had no problem striking in the face their Creator. This had been prophesied in Is. 50:6.

° 6 I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. Isaiah 50:6

II. Stage five: The final sentence to crucify an innocent man – 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.” 5 So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!” 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.” 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.”

a. Pilate pleaded with the crowd for the innocence of Jesus

b. The Jewish leaders inflamed the crowd to crucify Jesus

• Have you ever met someone who was good and blowing on an open flame of embers. Just someone who just kept the fire of division going. This is what the Chief Priests and others were doing. Get a crowd already mad, and just make them even more mad. Remember it was a few days ago this crowd was shouting Hail Him, now they are saying nail him. They turned on him just like that. So, who is Jesus to you. Is he someone who will give you what you want, what if you find out that Jesus will not give you what you want. Will you still shout Hail him or will you shout nail him.

c. The Jewish leaders wanted a public display of humiliation for Christ

• This is what it is all about, Power. Jesus had taken away the religious leader’s power. He was, at one time, more popular than what they were. They would follow his teachings, go to Him for answers from God, listen to his sermons that changed their lives. Now the Jewish people had turned on Him, they got Rome to kill Him, and the people will see the curse that will be nailed to a tree. In their minds they won, but in reality, all they did was excel the greatest miracle of all time, the Resurrection.

° 22 “And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, 23 his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance. Deuteronomy 21:22-23

° 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— Galatians 3:13

III. Stage six: Pilates final plea to Jesus to beg for his life – 8 When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. 9 He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. 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?” 11 Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.”

a. Pilate was more afraid of the crowd than Jesus

• Pretty much every bully you will find will always be afraid of something. Pilate was an overrated, egotistic, power-hungry scaredy cat. He was more afraid of the crowds causing a riot, and yet he was still trying not to put a innocent man to death. So, he chose the crowds instead of Christ.

° 8 The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. 9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. Luke 16:8-9

b. Pilate’s false claim of who has the power over death

• Who really had the power over death and life. It sure was not Pilate. We often claim things we have not right to claim. Pilate may have thought He was in control, but Christ made it clear that it was the heavenly Father that was in control of him. And Christ did it without showing any threat to Pilate.

c. The Religious leaders carried the greater sin

• I know to God sin is sin, but there is something to believing in the differences sin and how it can impact a life. Stealing a piece of bubble gum is a sin but killing a 2-year-old girl and burying her alone, and trying to cover up what you did, just to protect yourself, is a greater sin than stealing a piece of gum. God can forgive both, but what is the greater of the two sins. What the Jewish leaders were doing was a greater sin than what Pilate was doing. For something to be greater, it has to compared to something that is lesser. Think about that for a moment.

° 28 I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” Luke 7:28

IV. Stage seven: Yes the Jewish people crucified Christ – 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.”

a. The Jews forced Pilates hand to Crucify Jesus

• Politics makes strange bed fellows. The Jewish leaders did not like Pilate, Pilate did not like Caesar or the Jews, and the Jewish people did not like Christ. It was the Jewish leaders that lead in killing of Jesus in order to keep the power and control the people religious faith, and at the same time letting Pilate know just who really had the power over the Jewish people, and that would be the Jewish leaders.

b. Pilates enemy was Ceasar not Jesus

• Listen I feel like a lot of people need to hear this. Jesus is not your enemy. Those that stroke your fears, those who are in sighting your anger, that depression that you deal with daily, and I can go on and on, just fill in the blank “those or that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” is your real enemy not Jesus.

V. Stage eight: We have no king but Caesar – 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. 14 Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, “Behold your King!” 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.” 16 So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. The Crucifixion So they took Jesus,

a. The Jewish People denied Christ

• Yes, let’s put this question to bed. The Jewish people played a large hand in the death of Jesus. To deny this is to deny what scripture plainly teaches. Now read the next question.

b. We all at one time have denied Christ

• We all had some role in the death of Jesus. From Adam and Eve to the Heavenly Father, everything was predestined to be in order that we might go free.

° 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Matthew 27:46

° 2 And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.” Acts 17:2-3