



Growth Group Questions
April 13, 2025
“A Different Kind of King”

CONTEXT

Pilate ruled from 26AD-37AD. He was not as brutal as emperors like Nero or Caligula, but he did use force when he deemed it necessary and sometimes mistreated the Jewish people. He was no stranger to Jewish protests. Pilate was probably more calculating than anything which is why he did not get involved in the process of the execution of Jesus.

Pilate wants to know if Jesus is the “king of the Jews.” It is the same question asked of Jesus by the high priest in Mark 14:61. The religious issues would not have bothered Pilate. Roman rulers did not arrest and crucify people who were not seen as threats and Pilate would not have really considered Jesus a political threat.

Jesus was first mocked by the members of the Sanhedrin and others at the Jewish trial (14:65), then by the Roman soldiers, and finally by the mob around the cross (15:29–32). Mark recorded this mocking to show that Jesus’ prophecy in Mark 10:34 was fulfilled. Flogging was a preliminary to crucifixion and could also be used as an independent punishment. It was much harsher than the synagogue beatings of forty lashes less one.

The company of soldiers would be around 600 soldiers. The soldiers, without realizing what they were doing, were revealing exactly who Jesus was. Purple cloth was a color of royalty and the crown signified royalty or military strength.

Mark probably knew the people reading his letter, which was written around 60 AD, would also soon face persecution and abuse. Jesus was mocked as a pretender, but he was in fact a real, but different, king. Mark wanted to emphasize Jesus’ kingship was characterized by humility and servanthood and was different from all the kingships of the world.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 10:32-34

³² They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. ³³ “We are going up to Jerusalem,” he said, “and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.”

Mark 15:9-20

⁹ “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, ¹⁰ knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. ¹² “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. ¹³ “Crucify him!” they shouted. ¹⁴ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” ¹⁵ Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷ They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” ¹⁹ Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Isaiah 50:6-7

⁶ I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. ⁷ Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.

Isaiah 53:4-7

⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

Revelation 5:9-12

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign^[a] on the earth.” ¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

QUESTIONS

1. What comes to your mind when you think about someone who is known as a king or other royalty?
2. What does the Bible tell us about Jesus as king and how does that differ from our perception of earthly kings?
3. How did Jesus’ life, death and resurrection demonstrate His Kingship?
4. What does it mean that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords?
5. What does it mean to make Jesus King of your life?
6. What kind of things can stand in the way of making Jesus King of your life and what can you do about them?
7. What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega?
8. Pastor Paul said that Revelation 5:10 includes both our future and present job descriptions. What does that say to you about how you should be living today? What hope does it give you for the future?
9. This week’s sermon focused on Mark 15:9-20. Are there other parts of Mark 15 that spoke to your heart this week?

SERMON QUESTIONS

1. What can you do this week to “be ready” to celebrate Easter?
2. Is there someone you need to invite to join you this week at LJPC?