

Gospel of John: That You Might Believe

[John 18:28-19:16](#)

“Bearing Witness to the Truth”– November 14, 2021



Introduction

Would the people around you describe you as one who is easily offended? Would you describe yourself that way? When offended we begin to sulk, become defensive, and get angry. Maybe you just hold it all inside and replay the offense over and over all day. Taking offense can be destructive in our life. It makes us more unyielding, inflexible, and stubborn. We become hard-hearted, and we don't listen to loving friends. ([Proverbs 18:19](#))

In this text, Pilate knows that Jesus is innocent, but he stumbles over “the rock of offense” of Jesus. ([Romans 9:32-33](#)) Pilate is a mirror we can use to examine our own hearts. We can use it to see who Jesus really is and then love and trust Him.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Scene One: An Offended Governor 18:28-40
- II. Scene Two: A Long-suffering King 19:1-11
- III. Scene Three: Deliverance 19:12-16

Read & Discuss

1) Read 18:28-40

The Jewish leaders have brought Jesus to Pilate hoping that he would “rubber stamp” their decision to get rid of Jesus. When he doesn't, the Jewish leaders become offended. They don't have the authority to put Jesus to death. They are depending on the Roman government to help them. Pilate goes back and forth between questioning Jesus and the Jewish leaders. Both Pilate and the Jewish leaders think they are in control of the situation, but they are not. God is in charge, using this chaotic situation for His purposes. As he questions Jesus, Pilate becomes more offended by Jesus' answers. Jesus invites Pilate to believe, but Pilate responds with cynicism. Going back out to the Jewish leaders with his ego wounded, Pilate belittles them by suggesting that he release the “King of the Jews,” but he underestimates the crowd's hatred of Jesus.

How do you respond when Jesus turns the lights on your heart to expose sin? How do you respond when you become offended? Does cynicism play a role when you become offended?

Additional Reading: *Psalm 22, Matthew 27:11-23, Mark 15:1-15*

2) Read 19:1-11

Pilate is now trapped by his fear of man. He is bouncing between Jesus and the crowd trying to find a way out, but there is none. Pilate has Jesus flogged and beaten thinking that the crowd will no longer see Jesus as a threat. In all of this, Jesus shows meekness. He doesn't fight back, argue or retaliate. Because of pride and the fear of man, Pilate becomes more offended and frustrated.

We can use Pilate's response as a mirror to how we respond to an offense. When your self-image is challenged, how do you respond? How can you change? We have to look to God. [1 Peter 2:19](#)

- Remember God sees every offense ([Psalm 8:4](#))
- God sends every offense
- God will judge every offense

How does pride affect your response to an offense? How does knowing that God sees, sends and judges every offense, help you respond to those situations? Is there someone with whom you need to seek reconciliation? How can you take the first step?

Additional Reading: Proverbs 29:25, Isaiah 53

3) Read 19:12-16

Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent. He was trapped between the crowd and his fear of Caesar. This looks bad, but God is using this situation for good. We need a Savior. Jesus was delivered TO death so that we might be delivered FROM death. Jesus calls us to put to death our old life so that we can find true and lasting life in Him. We can be honest about our sin – God knows the worst about us, but He sent Jesus to pay the penalty for our sin and offer us forgiveness.

What are some things from the old life that need to be put to death? What does true and lasting life in Christ look like in your life now?

Additional Reading: Luke 7:23, Colossians 2:6-15

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

***Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [John 19:17-42](#) "It is Finished"