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John 19 - Part I

Behold the Man!

Luke 23:13-16: 13. *And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, 14. Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverts the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: 15. No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto [by] him. 16. I will therefore chastise him, and release him.*

As Pilate began to examine Jesus, he received a message from his wife: **Matthew 27:19:** *When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just [righteous] man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.* God spoke to Pilate through his wife of Jesus' innocence; and neither Pilate, nor Herod, found any fault in Jesus worthy of death, *For he knew that for envy they had delivered him* (Matthew 27:18). In an attempt to placate the Jews, Pilate was willing to *chastise* Jesus before releasing him. **John 19:1-5:** 1. *Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. 2. And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, 3. And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands. 4. Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him. 5. Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!* Notice the reaction from the religious leaders?

John 19:6-11: 6. *When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him. 7. The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God. 8. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid.*

What the Jews said reminded Pilate of his wife's dream, and troubled him. 9. *And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence [from where] are you? But Jesus gave him no answer. 10. Then said Pilate unto him, Speak you not unto me? know you not that I have power [authority] to crucify you, and have power [authority] to release you? 11. Jesus answered, You could have no power [authority] at all against me, except it were given you from above: therefore he that delivered me to you has the greater sin.*

In his own heart, Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent of the charges brought against him. Then, what the Jews repeated of Christ's words (Mark 14:61) confirmed the dream of Pilate's wife, and yet, he yielded to the demands of corrupt and envious religious leaders. There is, however, another implied reason church leaders rejected Jesus.

Matthew 20:20-21: 20. *Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. 21. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.* And right after his resurrection: **Luke 24:21:** *But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel.* And again,

Jesus is about to ascend to heaven and daily walk no more with the disciples: **Acts 1:6:** *When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? Judea had been reduced to a Roman province, ruled by Rome. The expectation of the Jewish people was that of a Messiah who would come and destroy their enemies and set up the temporal kingdom of Israel again. The phrase, restore again the kingdom actually should read restore the reign (^{g932} not the actual kingdom, but the authority to rule over a kingdom) to Israel - i.e. Israel would rule as a nation. Is not the expectation of the denominations today, similar to what the Jews believed?*

John 19:12-16: *12. And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar. 13. When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. 14. And it was the preparation of the Passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! 15. But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar. 16. Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.*

We have no king but Caesar - i.e. we have no king but a pagan, secular leader, which even the Jews considered to be heathen. History is being repeated in our generation, and many living today will see things fulfilled. Today, John's vision of a beast rising out of the sea is better understood. **Revelation 13:1-2:** *1. And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns (Revelation 17:12; 9:7), and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power [ability], and his seat [or, throne], and great authority.* The sea = worldly thoughts; leopard's spots = blemishes of sin unchanged; feet of a bear = unchanging attitude, hearts governed by their own opinions of law, secular or religious; mouth of a lion = worldly pride; the dragon giving ability and authority to the beast = the sin-nature totally governing those who reject God. The last head of the beast is coming into power.

1Thessalonians 5:1-11: *1. But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. 2. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. 3. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. 4. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you as a thief. 5. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 7. For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. 8. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. 9. For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 10. Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. 11. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*

How do we edify one another? Certainly not with all the political talk and conspiracy theories going around, which contain much mis-information. These things are designed to mislead and to conjure up fear; and fear is used to control the minds of the people. Our focus should be on what God plans, and His directions for our personal lives.

Philippians 4:8: *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, THINK ON THESE THINGS. Amen.*