

Passion Week—The Jews Compel Pilate to Crucify Jesus (Friday [~6:00 am], April 3, 33)

Matthew 27:15–26	Mark 15:6–15	Luke 23:20–25	John 19:1–16a
<p>21 But the governor said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.”</p> <p>22 Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”</p> <p>They all said, “Crucify Him!”</p> <p>23 And he said, “Why, what evil has He done?”</p>	<p>12 Answering again, Pilate said to them,</p> <p>“Then what shall I do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews?”</p> <p>13 They shouted back, “Crucify Him!”</p> <p>14 But Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has He done?”</p>	<p>20 Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again,</p> <p>21 but they kept on calling out, saying, “Crucify, crucify Him!”</p> <p>22 And he said to them the third time, “Why, what evil has this man done?”</p>	<p>1 Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him.</p> <p>2 And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him;</p> <p>3 and they <i>began</i> to come up to Him and say, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and to give Him slaps <i>in the face</i>.</p> <p>4 Pilate came out again and said to them, “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.”</p> <p>5 Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe.</p> <p><i>Pilate</i> said to them,</p> <p>“Behold, the Man!”</p> <p>6 So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, “Crucify, crucify!”</p>

<p>But they kept shouting all the more, saying, "Crucify Him!"</p>	<p>But they shouted all the more, "Crucify Him!"</p>	<p>I have found in Him no guilt <i>demanding</i> death; therefore I will punish Him and release Him." 23 But they were insistent, with loud voices asking that He be crucified.</p>	<p>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 by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out <i>to be</i> the Son of God." 8 Therefore when Pilate heard this statement, he was <i>even</i> more afraid; 9 and he entered into the Praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 So Pilate said to Him, "You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?" 11 Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has <i>the</i> greater sin." 12 As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews cried out saying, "If you release this Man, you are no friend of</p>
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<p>24 When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see <i>to that</i> yourselves." 25 And all the people said, "His blood shall be on us and on our children!"</p> <p>26 Then he released Barabbas for them;</p>	<p>15 Wishing to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas for them,</p>	<p>And their voices <i>began</i> to prevail.</p> <p>24 And Pilate pronounced sentence that their demand be granted. 25 And he released the man they were asking for who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder,</p>	<p>Caesar; everyone who makes himself out <i>to be</i> a king opposes Caesar." 13 Therefore when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. 14 Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!" 15 So they cried out, "Away with <i>Him</i>, away with <i>Him</i>, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."</p> <p>16 So he</p>
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but after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.	and after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.	but he delivered Jesus to their will.	then handed Him over to them to be crucified.
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Chronological Notes

- 1) My order of events includes two floggings: Jesus received a light flogging (John 19:1) in the hopes that this would satisfy his enemies; when it did not, Pilate ordered him to be crucified and he was severely flogged (Matt 27:26; Mark 15:15). For a thorough discussion of this issue, see Croteau’s 2020 JETS article.¹
- 2) John’s mention of the “sixth hour” (John 19:14) has led to a discussion of whether John is at odds with the Synoptic Gospels which state that Jesus was on the cross at the sixth hour (Matt 27:45; Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44).² The key to understanding the Gospels’ time indications is to understand notations of time in the ancient world.³ John used Roman reckoning, starting at midnight, whereas the Synoptic Gospels used Jewish reckoning, starting at dawn (about 6:00 am). Thus it was most likely about 6:00 am—not noon—that Jesus was handed over to be crucified. Between then and noon (the sixth hour of the Synoptic Gospels) Jesus was led away, nailed to the cross (Mark’s “third hour”; i.e., 9:00 am) and crucified.

¹ David A. Croteau, “Is the Two-Floggings Hypothesis a Viable Option? A Reconstruction of the Order of the Floggings of Jesus,” *JETS* 63.4 (2020): 663–74.

² Jack Finegan, *Handbook of Biblical Chronology*, Rev. Ed., (Hendrickson Publishers, 1998): 358–59.

³ Andrew E. Steinmann, *From Abraham to Paul*, 293–97. See also Henry J. Cadbury, “Some Lukan Expressions of Time: (Lexical Notes on Luke-Acts VII),” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 82/3 (Sep 1963): 272–78 and Johnny V. Miller, “The Time of the Crucifixion,” *JETS* 26/2 (June 1983): 157–166. Note that Steinmann disagrees with Miller’s conclusion; see p. 295 of *From Abraham to Paul*.