

Mark 15:1-20 – Christ Took Full Responsibility

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Mrs. Clinton, former Secretary of State for the USA, recently said she took full responsibility for what happened at the US consulate 领事馆 in Benghazi, Libya, where 4 Americans, including an Ambassador, were murdered and their bodies desecrated. What did it mean that she took full responsibility? Was she charged for a crime? No. Was she fired from her job for not providing proper security for which the Ambassador asked? Was she publicly rebuked by her boss? No. Her confession was patronizing 爱国 but meant nothing consequential 后果. She was only taking theoretical responsibility. Theoretical responsibility is common in false religions as well. Adherents of those religions basically say they are sorry for their sins... but there is no real penalty... or they give some money to the poor... or burn some incense... or repeat some prayers... and voila! 隐晦... their sins are gone. There is no real penalty but they feel like they have done something religious! How cunning the sneaky snake it! He makes people believe they are not as bad... or that they can meet God's demands by themselves. But God demands death for justice... and God demands death of the God/Man for justice and new life. Jesus Christ had to take full responsibility for your sins and he showed that he took full responsibility for your sins throughout his life and in his death. You will see how today.

Our headings are: The Arraignment 公诉 of Jesus Christ for you, the Trial of Jesus Christ for you, and the Abusing of Jesus Christ for you.

Our goals are: You will make a daily effort to remind yourself of the degree of your guilt and the price of your freedom in Jesus Christ so that you will love him better.

The Arraignment of Jesus Christ for you

1 And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole Council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate.

1. The Lord Jesus was arraigned- formally charged-by the chief priests. They did not come up with these charges willy-nilly. They consulted with one another. These chief priests even got the advice of other leaders and historians. This formal charge was necessary according to law. Jesus was not killed by a Jewish mob 暴民. The Jewish leaders therefore cannot excuse themselves from blood guiltiness. Jesus was legally charged with capital crimes by the lawful authorities. They charged Jesus Christ with blasphemy 褻渎, among other things.

Mark 14: 61... Again the high priest asked Him, saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" 62 Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." 63 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? 64 "You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?" And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death.

Luke 23: 2 And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."

2. While the charges against Jesus were legal, there was nothing moral about the process of charging him.

a. The Jewish leaders had illegally arrested Jesus the night before. (John 18:12)

b. The Jewish leaders met and took Jesus about 6:00 in the morning to Pilate, showing a zeal for sin 对罪恶的激情

c. The Jewish leaders did this on a special worship day - the day after the Passover, the 1st day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread 无酵饼节. The Jews should have been thinking of the lamb they had set aside for 4 days... and of their freedom through the blood of the lamb. Instead, they wanted to shed the blood of the Lamb of God.

d. The Jewish leaders knew there was conflict in the testimony against Jesus but sinfully proceeded anyway.

Mark 14:56 For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree.

e. The Jewish leaders later added the charge of "subversion 颠覆" (Lk 23:5) to the Lord because they knew that the charge of "blasphemy" might have met the Jewish standard for death, but they needed a charge that would have also met the Roman standard for death. The Jewish leaders did not have the power to convict 定罪 and execute criminals so they took him to the legal judge and executioner - Pilate. What wicked leaders of the covenant people of God!

Ezekiel 22:26 "Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known *the difference* between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths 安息日, so that I am profaned among them.

It was because of the wickedness of the priests that Judah went into Babylonian captivity. (Lam 4:13)

3. When the Jews took Jesus Christ to Pilate, they were officially breaking covenant with God. (This is important.) They were saying that they didn't want their king and they were turning the kingdom over to the Gentiles. The Jews, the

Scarlet Harlot, were going to sit on the lap of the Beast. God did not break covenant with the Jews by leaving them. They left him.; they rejected him as king. This is why God gave the covenant to another-one more worthy. Luke 13.

The Trial of Jesus Christ for you

2 And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." 3 And the chief priests accused him of many things. 4 And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." 5 But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

1. Pilate then began the process of examining the accused, Jesus Christ, in a legitimate 合法 criminal proceeding after the chief priests brought the charges. This is important because it was the **job of the priests was to bring the sacrifice and examine them** before they were sacrificed to make sure they were perfect. The Jewish priests were unknowingly fulfilling the law of the sacrifices, though Caiaphas seemed to expect this.

2. Jesus answered 1 question that Pilate posed. He confirmed that he was the King of the Jews. Though they accused him of many things he remained silent. Why did Jesus not deny the charges? Wasn't he wrong to refuse to answer the judge? No, he wasn't wrong to refuse to answer. There are 2 reasons for his silence.

a. It was **up to the court to prove guilt 罪孽**. No one was allowed to force a man to testify against himself. God required this in order to stop the state from torturing people for confession.

b. Jesus did not speak because **he was guilty of great sins**... Silence gives consent. He was guilty with your sins.

6 Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. 7 And among the rebels in prison, who had **committed murder in the insurrection 作乱**, there was a man called Barabbas. 8 And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do **as he usually did** for them.

9 And he answered them, saying, "**Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?**"

10 For he perceived 知道 that it was out of **envy that the chief priests** had delivered him up. 11

But the chief **priests stirred up the crowd** to have him release for them Barabbas instead.

3. Pilate knew that the Jewish leaders envied 嫉妒 the Lord. Seeing the Lord's innocence, and wanting to release him, Pilate then tried to use a loophole 漏洞 to let Jesus go. He usually released a political prisoner to try to placate 安抚 the Jews at that time of their great feast. So he tried to use the crowd to speak against the priests and demand the release of the Lord. But the Jews rejected that offer. They were stirred up by the priests and so they demanded the release of the murderous insurrectionist 叛乱者 Barabbas. Think about it: **The guilty went free because the innocent was sacrificed! Amazing!** They didn't even know they were meeting the requirements of God's law.

12 And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" 13 And they cried out again, "Crucify him." 14 And Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him 把他钉十字架"

4. So Pilate pleaded a second time for evidence against the Lord. Instead of providing evidence (How could they? They had none) the leaders simply stirred up the people to act like a mob. They cried out louder: Crucify him, crucify him! How remarkable! The priest could find nothing wrong with Christ. The people could find nothing wrong with Christ. Pilate could find nothing wrong with Christ. Yet, **what a beautiful picture: Jesus was the perfect sacrifice**... he was fit to die...and everyone knew it! He wasn't lame 瘸 or blind, or spotted. He was perfect, and waited to die.

The Abusing of Jesus Christ for you

15 So Pilate, **wishing to satisfy the crowd**, released for them Barabbas, and **having scourged 鞭打** Jesus, he **delivered him to be crucified**.

1. The Roman Beast and the Jewish Scarlet Harlot did not simply kill him; they wanted to torture him first. Pilate could have simply beheaded 斩首 him... which was relatively painless. But he ordered the Lord to be tortured before execution – which was more torture because of the nature of crucifixion. Pilate wanted the people to love him so he killed Jesus. The Jews wanted to kill Jesus because they were losing their influence. None of them could hide from the blame.

2. His Physical abuse: Our Lord, who created the world and came to save the world because it fell into sin, was **stripped 剥离 naked, fastened to a pillar, and severely whipped across his bare back**. The people hit him... a most personal insult. They hit the God of glory. What barbarism 野蛮 by government officials! With blood running down his face and his back soaked in blood, they led him to the cross to kill him.

Mark 14:65 Then some began to spit on Him, and **to blindfold 蒙住 Him, and to beat Him**, and to say to Him, "Prophecy!" And the **officers struck Him with the palms of their hands**.

16 And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they

called together the whole battalion 全队士兵

3. His Mental Abuse:

a. The Roman soldiers, called for more soldier to join them to mock Jesus in a most painful way. **Jesus Christ was tied with rope or chains as a common criminal** when he was arrested (Jn 18:12), when he was taken before Annas and Caiaphas (Jn 18:24) , and when he was sent to Pilate (Mk 15:1). The bound Lord pictured the perfect bound sacrifice prepared for the altar. This was a picture of **you who were bound in sin and slavery!** You were in him. It was as if you were tied. He took full responsibility for you.

Psalms 118:27 God is the LORD, And He has given us light; Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.

17 And they clothed him in a **purple cloak**, and twisting together a **crown of thorns**, they put it on him.

b. **They put a reddish purple robe on Jesus to mock his claim to be king.** But what does being covered with the reddish purple signify? The scarlet sins 血红的罪恶 of the whole world, of course. Jesus came as king of the world to bear the sins of the world...and his evil torturers unknowingly pictured it.

c. **The soldiers twisted a crown of thorns on Jesus' head, picturing, not just how they humiliated him, but also showing the marks of the Curse on his head. Thorns came as a result of the curse on Adam.** This crown of thorns must have been painful...hitting raw nerves in his forehead, but it is the insult that would have hurt more. And this is what you deserved. But he took full responsibility for you.

18 And they began to **salute 祝贺 him**, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

d. **They fake-saluted Jesus**, insulting, not honoring him. The one who normally saluted showed that he had no ill will against the one whom he saluted. But what a lie. They saluted him and then killed him.

19 And they were **striking his head with a reed** and **spitting** on him and **kneeling down in homage to him**.

e. **They held out a reed to him, as if they were king**...then hit him with it. A scepter was a picture of power of life and death to the one who approached to king, but they used it to act like they were going to kill him.

f. **They spit on the Lord. How humiliating!** A king was kissed, not spat on. But that was what you deserved.

g. **They pretended to bow to him**, but they did so only with their knees and not their heart.

Luke 22:65 And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him.

20 And when they had mocked him, they **stripped him** of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him.

h. Those nearby and the soldiers, mocked him as king.

Verbal abuse can be most painful...especially when one is innocent...but he took it because you were guilty.

20...And they led him out to crucify him.

4. Jesus was publicly abused...and this was the worse of the earthly punishments. Public embarrassment hurt more than physical pain. The Romans forced Jesus to make that long trek up 艰苦徒步 Mount Calvary...with a cross on his back.

Conclusion:

Jesus Christ was accused and arraigned in your place, he was tried and condemned, and he was abused and killed in your place... All of this innocent accusation, condemnation, and abuse had to be done as punishment for you, the guilty one – you, Barabbas. It should give you a first glimpse of what your sins deserve, and from what you are saved.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Take a moment to think of the great price (Jesus' accusation, condemnation, abuse, and death) of your salvation.

2. Then praise God without ceasing – daily – for taking responsibility for your sins.

3. Know that Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and atheists will go to hell. They have no one to take responsibility for their sins so they have to pay for it themselves.

4. Only you, the Christian, has the answer to their lives. Take that message to them so that they might live.

Finally, if Jesus does not take responsibility for you, you have to take it for yourself. If you take it for yourself, you will spend eternity in hell. I know that is not where you want to be. So ask God to count Christ's work fully as your own.