

## CHAPTER TWO

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## GOD'S WISDOM IS THE WISDOM OF THE CROSS.

(Contains the revelations of Mary of Agreda.)  
Part 4 section 2 "Jesus condemned to death".

### Pilate shows Jesus to the Jews.

It seemed to Pilate that a man so injured as Jesus of Nazareth would move and fill the hearts of the Jews with compassion. Pilate therefore commanded that Jesus be brought to an open window in the palace, where the Jews could see Him disfigured and crowned with thorns. Pilate spoke to the people: "Behold, the Man! See this Man, whom you hold as your enemy! What more can I do with Him, since I have already punished Him in this manner? Certainly you have nothing more to fear from Him. I do not find any cause of death in Him".

Behold how Pilate condemned his own actions by saying: "I do not find any cause of death in Him". You see, Pilate knowingly knew Jesus was innocent, had nevertheless ordered Jesus to be tormented and punished in such a way, by nature, would have killed a man many times over. ***Know and understand that no man could ever live through such a punishment.*** But because Jesus wanted to suffer to the fullest extent, He wouldn't allow His death until He suffered the pains of the Cross.

Jn 19:4 Once more Pilate went out and said to them, "Look, I am bringing Him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him."

19:5 So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the ***purple*** cloak. And he said to them, "***Behold, the Man!***" When the chief priests and the guards saw Him they cried out, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

### Behold The Man.

"Behold the Man". When the Jews saw Jesus, they rejected Him. In the same way, most men will reject Him at their Final Tests. ***They will not value how Jesus has taken upon Himself their sorrows.*** Even the elect, during the daytime of life, failed to appreciate how Jesus cares about their sorrows. But the elect, unlike the damned, will see their foolishness at their Final Tests. And will come to a great appreciation for Jesus while in purgatory. When a soul is subjected to the darkness of the Final Test, it then becomes wise and then seeks the light.

As Pilate said to the Jews, "Behold the Man", it was God who inspired Pilate to say these words. Yes, God was speaking through Pilate and God wanted us to "Behold the sufferings of Jesus". I say it to our shame we have rejected Him. How have we rejected Him you ask? ***We reject Him when we ignore the sufferings of others.*** The world is full of pain and suffering because man commits sins against each other. Simply, sin causes

sufferings. Every time we cause others to suffer, we reject the Man. We also reject the man when we fail to comfort those in need. Clearly if we have compassion for Jesus the Man, *our hearts will also have compassion for one another.*

When we contemplate how Jesus is presented to the Jews scourged and crowned, reflect upon the following verses from the Gospel of John.

Jn 21:24 This is the disciple (John is speaking.) who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

21:25 But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself *could not contain the books that would be written.*

- *“Could not contain the books that would be written”.* Imagine if we had to write down every sin committed by each and every man. All the books in the world could not contain all the darkness. And since Jesus experienced all the pain caused by sin, His experiences if recorded would be greater than all the books in the world.

When Pilate showed Jesus to the people and said: “Behold, the Man! His Mother Mary fell upon Her knees and openly adored Him as the true God-Man. John and the other holy women also did the same. The Mother of Jesus spoke to the eternal Father and to Her Son words of sorrow and compassion. In Her exalted wisdom, *the Blessed Virgin countered*

*the insults against Jesus with praises.* She renewed Her petitions, namely that Pilate would continue to confess that Jesus was innocent. On account of these prayers, Pilate was made to feel great compassion at seeing Jesus so horribly scourged and injured. He regretted at having punished Him so severely and was moved to prolong his discussions with the Jews.

When the Jews said crucify Him, Pilate again answered: “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I do not find any cause for doing it”. The Jews replied: “According to our law He is guilty of death, for He claims to be the Son of God”. This reply threw Pilate into great fear, for he thought this might be true. Therefore Pilate withdrew with Jesus into the palace, where, speaking with Him alone, he asked, “Where are you from?” Jesus did not answer the question; for Pilate was not in a state of mind either to understand or to merit a reply. Nevertheless Pilate insisted and said to Jesus: “Do You not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release You and I have power to crucify You?” Pilate sought to move Jesus to defend Himself and tell him what he wanted to know. It seemed to Pilate that any man tormented as Jesus was, would gladly accept any offer of favor. Jesus, however, answered without defending Himself and said: *“You would have no power over Me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason the one who handed Me over to you has the greater sin.”*

My dear brothers, I ask you, who has the greater sin? Do the Jews have the greater sin, or does Pilate?

My son say to My people, I am the One who gives light and can take it away. As I have said before, much is required when much is given. Realize I watch all your paths and number all your steps. I give to each according to his ways, according to his deeds. Much more was expected from the Jews, less from Pilate. The Jews had the Written and Natural Laws but Pilate had only the Natural Law.

Brothers, there is an error among men that think all sins carry the same weight. But Jesus clearly says the one who handed Him over has the greater sin. Also consider the next example. Jesus spoke these words, “But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever *insults* his brother shall be liable to the council, (purgatory) and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ (I hate you.) shall be liable to the hell of fire”. Mt (5:22)

Jn 19:6 When the chief priests and the guards saw Him they cried out, “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him. I find no guilt in Him.”

19:7 The Jews answered, “We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.”

19:8 Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more afraid,

19:9 and went back into the praetorium and said to Jesus, “Where are You from?” Jesus did not answer him.

19:10 So Pilate said to Him, “Do you not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release You and I have power to crucify You?”

19:11 Jesus answered (him), “You would have no power over Me if it had not been given to you from above. For this reason the one who handed Me over to you has the greater sin.”

Mk 15:4 Again Pilate questioned Him, “Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of.”

15:5 Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Pilate, after hearing the answer of Jesus, was once again struck with fear. Therefore Pilate made another effort to free Jesus. The priests; however were aware of Pilate’s intentions of freeing Him, so they threatened Pilate with the displeasure of Caesar if he released a Man who calls Himself King. The Jews said: “If you free this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; since He makes Himself King”. Pilate was much disturbed at this threat of the priests. So Pilate again went out to the Jews with Jesus and again pleaded with the Jews, saying: “Behold, your King!” And the Jews answered: “Take Him away, take Him away! Crucify Him!” Pilate replied: “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”



Brothers, a soul without compassion is a soul either in hell or a soul that will fail its Final Test. All men deserve mercy and compassion. Inflicting harsh and cruel punishment is an instrument from hell.

*Jn 19:12* Consequently, Pilate tried to release Him; but the Jews cried out, “If you release Him, you are not a friend of Caesar. Everyone who makes himself a King opposes Caesar.”

*19:13* When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus out and seated Him on the judge’s bench in the place called Stone Pavement, in Hebrew, Gabbatha.

*19:14* It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. And he said to the Jews, “Behold, your King!”

*19:15* They cried out, “Take Him away, take Him away! Crucify Him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”

- “We have no king but Caesar.” The Jews spoke correctly when they said they had no king but Caesar. For when a man makes his passions and appetites his king, he

has made an earthly king for himself.

*Mk 15:12* Pilate again said to them in reply, “Then what (do you want) me to do with (the Man you call) the King of the Jews?”

*15:13* They shouted again, “Crucify Him.”

*15:14* Pilate said to them, “Why? What evil has He done?” They only shouted the louder, “Crucify him.”

Brothers, behold the Man-God that took upon Himself every sorrow. Just because someone says I love you, does that really mean that soul loves you? Love is when a soul cares about your every feeling. Jesus not only cares but actually felt man’s every pain. Ponder then the wounded Body of Jesus. His soul has experienced far more pain than the total sum of His physical tortures. You may not see it clearly now, but life is not worth living unless we value and appreciate how Jesus cares about us. We need to be surrounded by His love.

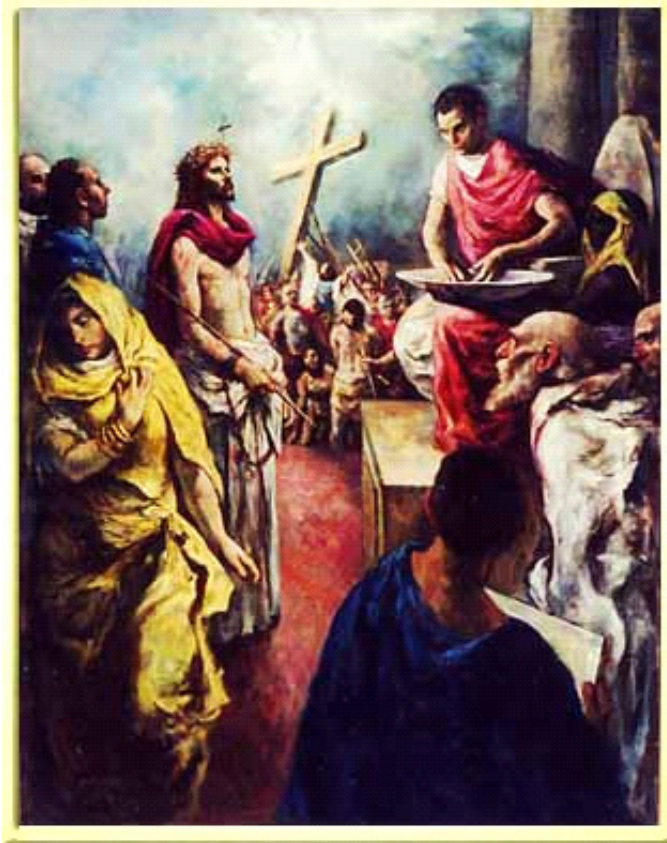
## Pilate Condemns Jesus to Death on the Cross.

Pilate finally realized that he was making no impression and a riot was breaking out instead. Pilate permitted himself to be overcome by the obstinacy and hatred of the Jews. He called for water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, declaring as he did so, “I am innocent of the blood of this just Man. The responsibility is yours.” The whole people said in reply, “Let His Blood be on us and on our children.” *Mt (27:24)* (Spiritually speaking, children



refers to their own actions.) At that, Pilate released the one they asked for, who had been thrown in prison for insurrection and murder, and delivered Jesus up to their wishes.

Brothers, Pilate is fully aware of his injustice by calling for water and washing his hands in front of the crowd, declaring as he did so, “I am innocent of the Blood of this just man. The responsibility is yours.”



What can we learn from Pilate’s actions when he declared he was not guilty of the physical death of Jesus? We must realize that Pilate had the power to stop the physical pain that was inflicted against Jesus. How does this pertain to us? Take for example the millions of people in the world that need food, medicine, clothing and housing. If we have the power to

help others with funds and fail to do so, we are behaving like Pilate. We are not directly causing people’s sufferings, but many of us have some wealth to stop people’s pain. If we have power in stopping the pain in others, we are required to give assistance.

Jas 2:14 What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him?

2:15 If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food,

2:16 and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?

2:17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

So tell me, do you know what Pilate was afraid off? I say to you, Pilate feared punishment from Caesar by releasing a Man who was called King. Tiberius was the Caesar and ruler of the Roman Empire at that time. Tiberius followed the tradition of Caesar Augustus to allow conquered nations some freedoms. The theory was to elevate conquered people to the lifestyle of Romans and allow them to enjoy the fruits of the Roman empire. Then conquered people would want to preserve the Roman Empire because it benefited them. Thus rulers like Pilate were instructed to appease (pacify) the people in order to gain their good will. The last thing Caesar Tiberius wanted was to send troops to a region like Jerusalem. It's much more profitable to have peace than to stop uprisings. Because Pilate feared Caesar, and Tiberius did harmful things to people,

Pilate wished to give the Jews the life of Jesus than risk Tiberius' anger. If riots were to occur, Caesar would want to know the cause. Caesar was not concerned with justice if it meant losing the peace. Caesar was concerned with making money. Where there is money, there is power. One Man's life being Jesus was not worth losing Jerusalem to riots.

Mt 27:24 When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, **he took water and washed his hands** in the sight of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's Blood. Look to it yourselves."

27:25 And the whole people said in reply, "His Blood be upon us and upon our children."

27:26 Then Pilate released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.

- "His Blood be upon us and upon our children." It must be understood that "children" represents a man giving birth to his actions. Since a man commits many sins, he gives birth to sin and this sin can be symbolized as children. Since this sin of rejecting Christ was so serious, their future actions will be cursed because their actions will produce no virtues. Also it must be said that their actual children were taught a faith that hated Christianity. Thus even their sons and daughters were not about the Blood to save them. This does not mean that all Jews are cursed to hell, for God will

have mercy on which He chooses. God will give them a spirit to ask for the Blood of Christ at their Final Test.

Lk 23:23 With loud shouts, however, they persisted in calling for His crucifixion, and their voices prevailed.

23:24 The verdict of Pilate was that their demand should be granted.

23:25 So Pilate released the man who had been imprisoned for rebellion and murder, for whom they asked, and he handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they wished.

Jn 19:16 Then Pilate handed Him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus,

Mk 15:15 So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them.

To the great satisfaction and joy to the priests and Pharisees, Pilate sentenced Jesus to death on the Cross. The soldiers took Jesus to another part of the palace, where they stripped Him of the purple clothing. For they wished to see Jesus under-go the punishment of the Cross in His own clothes so that in them He might be recognized by all. Only by His garments could He now be recognized since His face had been disfigured beyond recognition by the scourging, the impure spittle, and the crown of thorns.

Mt 27:31 And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the cloak, dressed Him in His own clothes, and led Him off to crucify Him.

Mk 15:20 And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the purple cloak,

**dressed Him in His own clothes, and led Him out to crucify Him.**

Is 52:14 Even as many were amazed at Him— so marred was His look beyond that of man, and His appearance beyond that of mortals

52:15 So shall He startle many nations, (The damned who loved many different sins.) because of Him kings shall stand speechless; for those who have not been told shall see, (Those who never heard of the word of God.) those who have not heard shall ponder it.

They again clothed Jesus with the seamless tunic. Because of the many strangers who came to celebrate the Passover, the city was full of people. All of them were stirred by the news and filled the streets. It was Friday, the day the Jews prepared themselves for the coming Sabbath. (The Sabbath begins at sun down Friday evening.) No work was to be performed on the Sabbath, not even cooking meals; all this had to be done on Friday. In sight of this crowd, they brought forth Jesus in His own garments. His face was so disfigured by His wounds, blood, and spittle, that no could recognize Him as the One they had seen or known before. At the sight of Jesus, a confused shouting and noise arose from the people, so nothing could be understood. The people were divided and confused in their opinions, according to the feeling of their own heart. There were many people present who had benefited by our Lord's miracles. These people had heard and accepted His teachings and had become His followers and friends. They showed their sympathy, some in bitter tears, others by asking what has

this Man done to deserve such punishment. Others were dumbfounded and began to be troubled and confused by all the confusion.

Ps 31:12 To all My foes I am a thing of scorn, to My neighbors, a dreaded sight, a horror to My friends. When they see Me in the street, they quickly shy away.

Of the eleven Apostles, only John was present. He accompanied the Blessed Virgin and other pious women. When John saw Jesus, he was so filled with grief; he himself took on the appearance of death. When the other women saw Jesus, they fainted. But Mary, even though overwhelmed by grief, **never fainted**. She in all Her actions was most prudent, courageous and admirable. Calmly the Blessed Virgin comforted John and the others. She prayed to the Father to strengthen them. The Most Holy Mother did nothing unbecoming, but shed forth tears with the dignity of a Queen. Her attention was fixed upon Her Son, the true God. She prayed to the eternal Father and **offered His sorrows and torments for the salvation of souls**. She understood the ugliness of sin, and penetrated the hidden truths of the Redemption.

### **Pilate Sentenced Jesus to Death.**

Pilate can be used as a symbol of those men who consider themselves rulers and are uncircumcised of the heart. In other words, Pilate represents the damned. It is the damned that caused Jesus so much pain that He tasted death, meaning He



was tempted with suicide. Experiencing the suicidal emotions of the damned at their Final Tests crushed Jesus. Jesus was weighed down with the damn's emotions of extreme sorrow. The Blood of Jesus poured forth from His Body represents how Jesus emotions were pulled down into darkness. As for the weight of the elect's sins, suffering for them was pleasing to Him because His suffering would save them. But to suffer for the damned, His suffering for them would produce no salvation. Since it was Pilate who sentenced Jesus to death, it can be said that the damned and their sorrows caused Jesus to be tempted with suicidal depression.

Heb 12:2 looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, *who for the joy that was set before Him* endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

### Why is Hell Forever?

Mk 9:45 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 9:48 where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.

It was necessary that the damned suffer for eternity in order to produce the crushing sorrow that Jesus experienced during His life upon the earth. Without this crushing sorrow, His Blood would have never been shed. *And since our salvation requires us to be intoxicated when we mediate upon Jesus Blood, He had to be crushed.* If the damned were

allowed to disappear and their sufferings stopped, Jesus would have never been tempted with suicidal depression.

## Questions

- 1) Does Pilate think Jesus is guilty?
- 2) Pilate presents scourged and crowned Jesus before the Jews by saying, "Behold, the \_\_\_\_\_"!
- 3) As the Jews rejected Jesus scourged and crowned, we may be guilty when we ignore the \_\_\_\_\_ of others.
- 4) Apostle John writes in his Gospel that Jesus did so many things that all the books in the world could never record them. Since Jesus experienced all the pain caused by \_\_\_\_\_, His experiences if recorded would be greater than all the books in the world.
- 5) Pilate makes a bold statement to Jesus saying that he had power to release Jesus. Jesus responded to Pilate by saying that he had no power over Him, and the power Pilate had came from \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6) Who had the greater sin, Pilate or the one who handed Jesus over?
- 7) Are all sins of equal value? Give an example to prove your answer.
- 8) The Jews said to Pilate, "If you release this Man, you are no friend of \_\_\_\_\_"?

- 9) Because the Jews would not listen to Pilate about freeing Jesus, Pilate called for water to \_\_\_\_\_ his hands.
- 10) Can Pilate say to the Jews that the responsibility of Jesus' life be on their hands and have no sin on his hands? Explain your answer.
- 11) The whole people said in reply, "Let His Blood be on us and on our children." Mt (27:24) The direct guilt of sin is on the person that commits \_\_\_\_\_. Children symbolizes a person's \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12) What person did Pilate fear?
- 13) Because the Jews wanted Jesus Blood to be upon their heads, Pilate released a prisoner named \_\_\_\_\_.
- 14) The soldiers dressed Jesus in His own clothes so the people might recognize Him because the appearance of Jesus was extremely disfigured from the \_\_\_\_\_, spittle and the crown of thorns.
- 15) Jesus was crucified on which day of the week? The Sabbath begins at dusk, when the sun falls below the horizon on what day of the week? On this particular Sabbath it was an extra special day called the \_\_\_\_\_.