

ROAD TO GOLGOTHA

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



THE SOLDIERS MOCK JESUS

Luke 23:6-11; Matthew 27:27-30; Mark 15:16-19; John 19:1-5

Pontius Pilate knew Jesus was innocent and did not want to deal with the situation. As soon as he learned that Jesus was a Galilean, Pilate immediately sent Him over to Herod Antipas (commonly referred to as just Herod, but he is the son of Herod the Great who killed all the young, male children when Jesus was little) because Jesus would be under Herod's jurisdiction instead of his own.

1

GOAL

Learn to read
iconography through
the Gospels

2

AT CHURCH

Holy Week

3

AT HOME

Great Lent:
Repentance, Prayer,
Fasting, Almsgiving



Royal Colors:
The colors worn by
royalty - Purple,
Red, and Blue



Mocking:
ridiculing or
making fun of



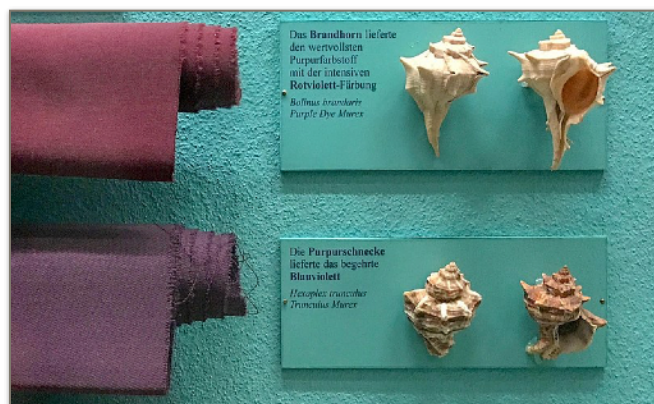
Scourge:
braided ropes with
metal balls, spikes,
and bones
embedded at the
ends of ropes

Herod had heard of Jesus and was eager to see Him. Although, what Herod really wanted was to watch Jesus perform for him with some miracles, but Jesus would do nothing of the sort.

As soon as Herod realized Jesus was not entertaining, he sent Jesus back to Pilate - but not before dressing Jesus in purple robe, mocking Him as the “King of the Jews.”

Why is the purple robe significant as part of their mocking of Jesus? Prior to the 1800's, you had to make your own pigments for clothes, paints, etc. Red, blue, and purple are called the royal colors because they were incredibly expensive to make - only royalty could afford to acquire the colors and there were even laws in place for who could wear these colors. Additionally, the purple that we think of today was not the purple of that time period. It was more of a reddish-purple like you see at the top of the photo at the right. So, when they placed a purple robe on Jesus and sent Him back to Pilate, there wasn't any need for them to have a messenger explain why they did it. Pilate instantaneously knew that Herod was making fun of Jesus.

The Roman soldiers ran with the joke and placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head and also gave Him



a rod to hold as His royal scepter. Unfortunately, they also beat Jesus with this rod and spat on Him.

JESUS IS RETURNED TO PILATE

Luke 23:13-25

Now, Pilate knows for sure that Jesus is innocent because Herod did nothing but mock Him and then send Jesus back.

Pilate tried again to release Jesus. They had a custom of releasing one prisoner at the time of Passover. Pilate was hoping they would choose Jesus over a criminal, but the Jewish authorities cried out for the release of Barabbas instead. Barabbas means, “son of the father.” Instead of releasing Jesus, the true Son of the Father, the

EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Crucifixion of the King of Glory by Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou

The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor by Fr. Lawrence Farley

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke by Blessed Theophylact



people cried out that the false son of the father be released.

Pilate was not done trying yet though. He ordered for Jesus to be scourged, hoping this would be sufficient in the eyes of the Jewish authorities, but it was not. All the louder, they cried out, “Crucify Him!”

Pilate still did not want to kill Jesus, but now the Jewish authorities had him cornered. They told Pilate that if he didn’t crucify Jesus then he wasn’t a friend (supporter) of the Roman emperor. At that point, he was being blackmailed and Pilate made the decision - Jesus was going to hang on the Cross.

SIMON OF CYRENE

Luke 23:26

Jesus had been scourged with a nasty braided whip embedded with metal and bone spikes. This left Him severely bleeding and weak. When He was handed His Cross to carry, He simply couldn’t make it all the way because of the extensive abuse He had suffered.

A man named Simon from the area of Cyrene was told to finish carrying Christ’s Cross for Him.

Are there times when “our cross” (our burden, hardship, struggle) is too much for us and we need help from someone? Are we willing to let someone else help us even when it’s embarrassing that we need help?

Are there times when someone else’s cross is too heavy for them - to the point they can’t keep going any further? Are we willing to help them and bear their cross for them?

What are some examples of each of these situations? (For ourselves and for others)

ACTIVITIES

- Where is Cyrene located on the map?

It is an area in northern Africa in eastern Libya.



- Learn about our icons for this lesson:

CHRIST THE BRIDEGROOM ICON (*the mocking of Christ*)

When you look at the icon, you will see Christ depicted in either a red or purple robe. This is the color of royalty and was used to make bold statement that Jesus was most certainly not a king. In addition to the robe, a crown of thorns (instead of a crown adorned with jewels) was placed on His head, and a rod was first used to beat Him and then given to Jesus as His royal scepter.

THE SCOURGING OF CHRIST & SIMON OF CYRENE CARRYING CHRIST’S CROSS

On the left side of the icon, we see two Roman soldiers scourging Jesus. On the right side of the icon, we see that the scourging had weakened Christ so severely that He could barely walk, let alone carry His own Cross. Simon was instructed to carry it for Christ.

- Review icons from the Raising of Lazarus to today’s lesson. Place them in sequential order.

ROAD TO GOLGOTHA

AT HOME

FOR PARENTS

What Jew would be simply loitering outside the praetorian on a Friday morning, especially on the eve of Passover? If indeed a random, unbiased crowd had been asked to decide between Barabbas and Jesus, the crowd might have asked for Jesus. But at that moment most people were bustling about the city below preparing for the feast. Who knew that Jesus was in Roman custody and facing the death penalty? Even the disciples may not have known exactly where Jesus was at that moment. They did not know that he was already held before Pilate and that they should assemble to shout for his release. Certainly the crowd that had welcomed Jesus as the Messiah the previous Sunday morning did not

know. Who knew where Jesus was and what was about to take place? One the high priest, chief priests, and members of the Sanhedrin. Only they knew where Jesus was and that Pilate was going to release one prisoner of the crowd's choosing. They were in the perfect position to control the outcome since the Temple, their domain where they wielded their power, stood just a few hundred yards away from the praetorian. As Pilate delayed, the chief priests generated the crowd, easily summoning friends and supporters from the Temple precincts nearby to rally in the Court of the Gentiles below the Antonia Fortress and shout for Barabbas.

Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou
The Crucifixion of the King of Glory
page 196-197

HOME ACTIVITY #22

Learn more about the [Antonio Fortress](#) where the Romans kept watch over the Jews
Virtual Field Trip: [Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem](#)



