

CHAPTER TWO

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GOD'S WISDOM IS THE WISDOM OF THE CROSS.

(Contains the revelations of Mary of Agreda.)

Part 3 "Jesus brought before Pilate".

Jesus Interrogated by Pilate.

Jesus arrived at the house of Pilate, followed by a large crowd of people. The Jews, wishing to preserve themselves as clean before the law as possible for the Passover, excused themselves before Pilate, for they refused to enter his palace. As hypocrites they paid no attention to their own uncleanness, becoming the murderers of an innocent Man.

Jn 18:28 Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. (The residence of Pilate.) It was morning. And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover.

Mk 15:1 ... They bound Jesus, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate.

Pilate, although a pagan, yielded to their ceremonious laws, and seeing that they hesitated to enter his court, he went out to meet them. According to the formality customary among the Romans, he asked them: "What accusation have you against this Man? They answered: "If He was not a criminal, we would not have brought Him to you thus bound and chained."

Jn 18:29 So Pilate came out to them and said, "What charge do you bring (against) this Man?"

18:30 They answered and said to him, "If He were not a criminal, we would not have handed Him over to you."

But Pilate pressed his questioning and said: "What are the misdeeds, of which He has made Himself guilty"? They answered: "He is convicted of disturbing the community, He wishes to make Himself our King and forbids paying taxes to Caesar. He claims to be the Son of God and has preached a new doctrine, beginning in Galilee through all Judea and Jerusalem".

Lk 23:2 They brought charges against Him, saying, "We found this Man misleading our people; He opposes the payment of taxes to Caesar and maintains that He is the Messiah, a King."

Brothers, notice how the Jews are lying by saying Jesus opposed paying taxes to Caesar. Jesus never said that, He said "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Mt (22:21)

Mk 15:3 The chief priests accused Him of many things.

Jn 18:31 At this, Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law." The Jews

answered him, “We do not have the right to execute anyone,”

The Mother of Jesus, with John and the other women, they were all present at this interview. Shielded by Her clothing, Mary wept tears of blood; caused by the sorrow that pierced Her heart. She asked the eternal Father to grant Her the favor of not losing sight of Her Divine Son, as far as was naturally possible, until His death. The most prudent Lady fervently prayed, that Pilate be not deceived and obtain clearest insight into the envy of the priests and scribes. In virtue of this prayer, Pilate clearly saw the truth and was convinced of the innocence of Jesus and of His being a victim of their envy.

Mt 27:18 For Pilate knew that it was out of **envy** that they had handed Him over.

Mk 15:10 For Pilate knew that it was out of **envy** that the chief priests had handed Jesus over.

In their hate the Jews were anxious to have Pilate go along with the sentence of death. When they noticed his hesitation, they raised their voices, accusing Jesus over and over again of revolting against the government of Judea, deceiving and stirring up the people. They made this accusation, hoping to stir Pilate to fear for the welfare of his government. Therefore they insisted, that Jesus in having called Himself Christ; was identical with calling oneself King of the Jews.

Lk 23:5 But they were adamant and said, “He is inciting the people with His

teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where He began even to here.”

So Pilate responded by asking Jesus: “What do You say to the accusations which they bring against You”? But Jesus answered not one word in the presence of His accusers.

Mt 27:12 And when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He made no answer.

This caused Pilate to wonder at such silence and patience. But, desiring to question more closely, whether Jesus was truly a King, he withdrew from the outcry of the Jews and brought Jesus into the court. There he asked Him face to face: “Tell me, are you the King of the Jews”? Pilate could not bring himself to think that He was a King. Therefore he wished to find out, whether Jesus claimed any right to the title of King. Jesus answered: “**Do you say this on your own or have others told you about Me?**” Pilate replied: “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and chief priests have delivered You up to me. What have You done”? Jesus answered: “**My Kingdom is not of this world. If My Kingdom did belong to this world, My attendants (would) be fighting to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, My Kingdom is not here.**” Pilate partly believed this answer and therefore answered: “You are a King then”? Jesus answered: “**You say I am a King. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My Voice.**” Pilate wondered at this answer

and asked: “What is truth”? But without waiting for an answer, he left Jesus in the palace and went outside and spoke to the Jews: “I find no case against Him, but you have a custom, that I should release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews, or Barabbas?” This Barabbas was a thief and murderer, who had killed a man in a quarrel. All the people raised their voice and said: “We want you to release Barabbas, and crucify Jesus”.

Brothers, it seems that men require a King so powerful, that they would not be able to resist Him. And the same can also be said about the Prophets that God sends to His people. Sorry, but God will not make a prophet so powerful that you can't resist him. In the same way God will not over power people with the authority of the Pope. No super natural miracle occurs that over powers us that the Pope is God chosen leader on earth.

Is 65:1 I was ready to respond to those who asked Me not, to be found by those who sought Me not. I said: Here I am! Here I am! To a nation that did not call upon My Name.

Jn 18:33 So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to Him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

18:34 Jesus answered, “Do you say this on your own or have others told you about Me?”

18:35 Pilate answered, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed You over to me. What have You done?”

18:36 Jesus answered, “My Kingdom does not belong to this world. If My Kingdom did belong to this world, My attendants (would) be fighting to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, My Kingdom is not here.”

18:37 So Pilate said to Him, “Then you are a King?” Jesus answered, “You say I am a King. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, *to testify to the truth*. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My Voice.”

18:38 Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” When he had said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them, “I find no guilt in Him.

18:39 But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?”

18:40 They cried out again, “Not this one but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.

Mk 15:2 Pilate questioned Him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said to him in reply, “You say so.”

Lk 23:3 Pilate asked Him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said to him in reply, “You say so.”

Pilate was much disturbed by the answers of Jesus and the stubbornness of the Jews. For on the one hand, Pilate knew that it would be difficult to satisfy the Jews without crucifying Jesus; and on the other hand, he clearly saw that Jews hated Him out of envy and the accusations were false and ridiculous. By the light that Pilate received, he became fully convinced that Jesus was truly

innocent. Although Pilate never understood the mystery of Christ's Divinity and the greatness of His innocence, the words of Jesus, however created an exalted idea of Him in Pilate's mind and made him think that some great mystery was connected with Him. Therefore he desired to free Him.

One of the accusations of the Jews was that Jesus had begun to stir up the people by His preaching in the province of Galilee. This caused Pilate to ask, whether He was a Galilean; and they told him that Jesus was born and raised in that country. Pilate thought this circumstance useful for the solution of his difficulties. So Pilate, seeing that Jesus was not one of his subjects, sent Jesus to Herod, who was the governor of Galilee.



Lk 23:4 Pilate then addressed the chief priests and the crowds, "I find this Man not guilty."

23:5 But they were adamant and said, "He is inciting the people with His teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where He began even to here."

23:6 On hearing this Pilate asked if the Man was a Galilean;

23:7 and upon learning that He was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod who was in Jerusalem at that time.

Pilate sends Jesus to Herod.

Herod was at that time in Jerusalem, celebrating Passover with the Jews. Herod's father, also named Herod the Great, thirty-three years before, had ordered the murders of all the baby boys in Bethlehem, hoping to kill the child Jesus.

Mt 2:16 When Herod (Senior) realized that the magi had deceived him, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi.

(Herod, the son of Herod, his mother was a Jewish woman and because of his mother, Herod observed the Law of Moses.)

Pilate and Herod were not friends at this time and disliked each other. For the two governed the two principal provinces in the area. (Judea and Galilee.) A short

time before, Pilate in his zeal for Roman power, had murdered some Galilean rebels during a public function in the Temple, and mixed their blood with the Holy Sacrifices. Lk (13:1) Herod was highly agitated at this sacrilege. Now Pilate wanted to make amends, so without much trouble to himself, he sent Jesus to Herod to be examined and judged as one of his subjects. Pilate also expected that Herod would set Jesus free as being innocent and a Victim of the hate and envy of the priests and scribes.

Being still bound and chained as before, the soldiers and servants dragged Jesus along by the ropes to where Herod was staying. The Soldiers had to break their way through the crowds because many of the Jews wanted to see the spectacle.

Mary also set forth from the house of Pilate with John and the holy women in order to follow Her Son. It would not have been possible for Her to follow closely enough to be in His sight, if She had not the help of Her holy Angels. They made it possible for Her to be constantly near Her Son. Thus walking through the streets, She saw and heard the insults of His executioners, the blows they dealt Him, the scorn from the people, expressed either as their own or repeated from gossip.

When Herod was informed that Pilate would send Jesus to him, he was highly pleased. Herod knew that Jesus was a great friend of John the Baptist, whom he had ordered to be put to death. Herod also knew of the many miracles Jesus had performed. In foolish curiosity

Herod desired to see Jesus do something new and extraordinary for his entertainment and wonder.

Lk 23:8 Herod was very glad to see Jesus; he had wanted to see Him for a long time, for he had heard about Him and had been hoping to see Him perform some sign.

Jesus therefore came into the presence of Herod, against whom the blood of John the Baptist was calling more loudly than the blood of Abel. (Cain killed his brother Abel. Gn (4:25)) But the unhappy murderer, ignorant of the terrible judgment against him, mockingly greeted our Lord with laughter. Herod began to examine and question Jesus. He thought he could induce Jesus to work some miracle to satisfy his curiosity. But the Lord of wisdom and prudence, standing with a humble reserve before His most unworthy judge, **answered Herod not a word.** For on account of his evil doing he well merited the punishment of not hearing the words of life, which Herod would certainly have heard if he had been disposed to listen to them with reverence.

Lk 23:9 Herod questioned Him at length, but Jesus gave him no answer.

The Lord Will Not Answer A Sinner.

Tb 13:6 When you turn back to the Lord with all your heart, to do what is right before Him, then He will turn back to you, **and no longer hide His face from you.**

Jb 8:20 Behold, God will not cast away the upright; *neither will He take the hand of the wicked.*

Jb 35:12 When they cry out, *He answers not* against the arrogance of the wicked.

Ps 66:18 Were I cherished evil in my heart, *the Lord would not hear.*

Prv 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but the prayer of the just He hears.

Prv 28:9 *When one turns away his ear from hearing the law,* even his prayer is an offensive.

- 1) *“When one turns away his ear from hearing the law”.* Men fail to realize that when they stop studying the law, their prayers are offensive.

Wis 1:1 ...think of the LORD in goodness, and seek Him in integrity of heart;

1:2 *Because He is not found by those who test Him,* nor does He show Himself to those who do not believe in Him.

1:3 For SELF-WILLED counsels separate a man from God, and His power, put to the proof, rebukes the foolhardy.

Is 1:11 ...I have had enough of whole-burnt rams and fat of fatlings; in the blood of calves, lambs and goats I find no pleasure.

1:13 Trample My courts (justice) no more! Bring no more worthless offerings; your incense (prayers) is loathsome to Me.

1:15 When you spread out your hands, I close My eyes to you; though you pray

the more, I will not listen. *Your hands are full of blood.*

1:16 Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before My eyes; cease doing evil;

1:17 learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged,

Brothers, look at your hands, do you see blood? When I look at my hands, I see blood. Yes the blood of my brothers. I was created to be my brother's keeper, but I served only myself. Being blind, I led the blind. Now I must make restitution for my crime. My hope is that the Lord will undo the damage.

Is 59:2 ... *it is your crimes that separate you from your God,* it is your sins that make Him hide His face so that He will not hear you.

Ez 14:3 Son of man, these men have the memory of their idols fresh in their hearts, (Refers to breaking the First Commandment.) and they keep the occasion of their sin before them. *Why should I allow Myself to be consulted by them?*

Ez 39:23 The nations shall know that because of its sins the house of Israel went into exile; for they transgressed against Me, and *I hid My face from them* and handed them over to their foes, so that all of them fell by the sword. (Refers to the Final Test.)

39:24 According to their uncleanness and their transgressions I dealt with them, hiding My face from them.

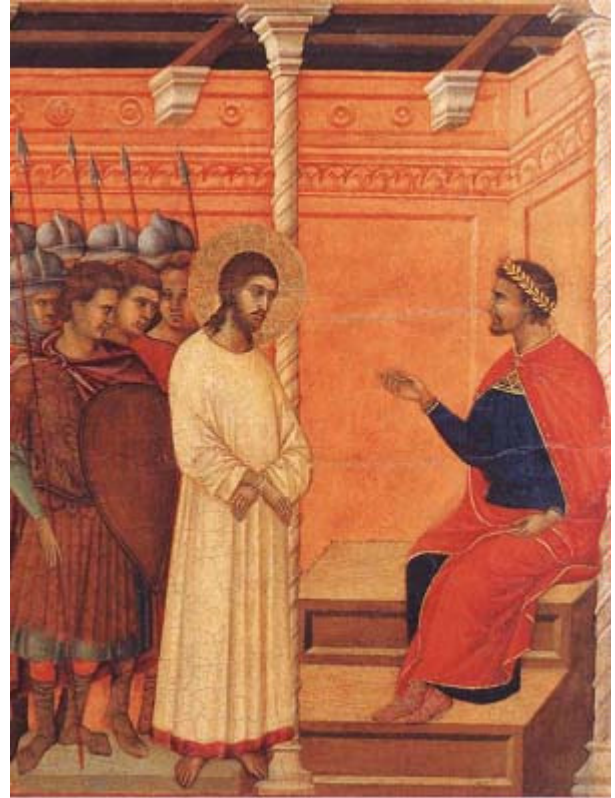
Mi 3:4 *When they cry to the LORD, He shall not answer them;* (Refers to Final Test.) rather shall He hide His face from them

at that time, because of the evil they have done.

Brothers, take note of how easy it is to worship what you do not understand. Herod was in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. As Scripture warns, men make a pretense of religion but deny its power. 2 Tim (3:1)

Brothers, listen and understand, when the Lord says He hides His face from us, He is actually hiding the truth from us. You must pay careful attention to what I am saying. If we live in the flesh, God punishes the flesh by lying to the flesh. The flesh only bears fruit for death. Rom (7:5) (Death is suicidal depression.)

The priests and the scribes followed Jesus to the house of Herod. They made the same accusations and charges before Herod as they had made in the presence of Pilate. But the Lord remained silent in regard to these accusations, much to the disappointment of Herod. Herod was much putout by the Lord's silence and meekness. He tried to hide his confusion by mocking and ridiculing Him. Treating Jesus as a fool and as one failing in mind, they clothed Him in a white garment. For the Hebrews were accustomed to cloth a man in white if they considered the man insane and to be avoided as dangerous. But by the hidden wisdom of God, this dress however signified purity and innocence of Jesus, and these ministers of wickedness were unknowingly giving testimony of the truth.



Ps 69:12 I clothed Myself in sackcloth; and I became a joke for them.

Herod was thankful to Pilate for the courtesy of sending Jesus to him. He informed Pilate, that he found no cause in Him, but held Him to be an ignorant Man of no consequence. Herod and Pilate made peace on that day and continued to be friends thereafter.

Lk 23:10 The chief priests and scribes, meanwhile, stood by accusing Him harshly.

23:11 (Even) Herod and his soldiers treated Him contemptuously and mocked Him, and after clothing Him in a rich cloak, he sent Him back to Pilate.

23:12 Herod and Pilate became friends that very day, even though they had been enemies formerly.

Amid a still greater noise and excitement created by the people, Jesus was dragged back to Pilate. In the midst of all this confusion, the Lord repeated within Himself in unspeakable love, with humility and patience, these words:

Ps 21:7 But I am a worm, hardly human, scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

21:8 All who see Me mock Me; they curl their lips and jeer; they shake their heads at Me:

The priests, using the power of persuasion, changed the people's minds. Amid all the overwhelming scorn, Jesus made no outcry. He made Himself a humble worm, which was despised and crushed as a most vile creature.

Questions

- 1) The Jews brought Jesus to Pilate and accused Jesus of many things. In the Book of Luke, it lists three things in which Jesus is accused. What are they?
- 2) The Jews were unable by the Roman Laws to execute anyone. So the Jews brought Jesus to the Roman governor named _____ who governed Jerusalem.
- 3) Pilate new that the Jews envied Jesus. Scripture says: For Pilate knew that it was out of *envy* that they had handed Him over. The prayers of _____ was the reason that Pilate saw the truth.
- 4) Pilate questioned Jesus about the accusations that the Jews accused Him. Pilate asked Jesus, are You a king? Jesus answered Pilate by saying He was born into the world to testify to the truth. Pilate responded by asking what is _____? But Pilate didn't stay to hear the answer.
- 5) Pilate was much disturbed at Jesus answers and the stubbornness of the Jews with wanting Jesus crucified. So Pilate wanted to find a way out of this problem. Since Jesus was a resident of Galilee, He sent Jesus to _____ who ruled over this territory.
- 6) Why did Herod observe the Jewish Passover?
- 7) Herod was very glad Jesus was being sent to him. Herod wanted to see Jesus perform some _____.
- 8) Herod had killed John the Baptist and was unworthy to hear Jesus speak. Herod asked Jesus many questions but Jesus remained silent. There are many verses in Scripture that say God will not answer a _____.
- 9) From the Book of Proverb it says: *"When one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his _____ is an offensive"*.
- 10) Because Jesus made no reply to Herod's questions, Herod considered Jesus a fool and dressed Jesus in a _____ garment. In God's eyes this garment signified purity and _____ of Jesus.

