

I. They judged Him a blasphemer, as they misjudged Him as not God's Son-

⁷ **The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God." John 19:7 (NKJV)**

1. Note this was their real, enduring problem with Jesus –

¹⁸ **Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. John 5:18 (NKJV)**

³³ **The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God." John 10:33 (NKJV)**

A. They don't tell Pilate this immediately because they told him what they thought he'd be most likely to accept as an accusation against Jesus, they presented Him as a threat to Caesar –

B. *Yet, when that FAILS, they share their REAL MOTIVATION, they count Jesus a blasphemer, and blasphemers were to be put to death –*

¹⁶ **And whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. When he blasphemes the name of the LORD, he shall be put to death. Leviticus 24:16 (NKJV)**

C. The problem with this is THEY ARE WRONG, Jesus had EVIDENCE of His Sonship, His miracles – ... and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. John 5:20 (NKJV)

* These men were not denying Jesus had performed a miracle, they acknowledge the miracle as FACT, they don't acknowledge that the miracle mattered!

* They were missing Jesus' life-giving POWER, because they counted "death" to be power, and they counted death as a POWER because of their SIN – **21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. John 5:21 (NKJV)**

- Killing was their answer, their solution – **12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV)**
- Later Jesus will raise Lazarus from the dead, their answer to this miracle was the same – **9 Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. 10 But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. John 12:9–11 (NKJV)**

Many have the power to KILL, Jesus Christ, God's Son has the power to give LIFE, but they don't mention His MIRACLES to Pilate.

- *In John 5, Jesus heals the man who was infirm for 38 years – John 5:5 & John 5:8-9*
- *He does this on the Sabbath – John 5:9 b*
- *Jesus' judges miss the merciful miracle, they count Him a Sabbath-breaker only – John 5:16*
- *Their ways were not God's Ways –*

⁸ **"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8–9 (NKJV)**

II. The God stuff frightens Pilate, but not enough –

⁸ Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, ⁹ and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" ¹¹ Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." ¹² From then on Pilate sought to release Him, ... John 19:8–12 A (NKJV)

1. The Jews talk of Jesus making Himself God or God's Son
2. Pilate's fear means he thinks MAYBE He is???
- A. He questions Jesus, "Where are You from?" "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?"
- B. Jesus' Answer seems to make Pilate MORE DETERMINED to release Jesus...

Scripture tells us - ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever. Psalm 111:10 (NKJV)

3. Pilate seems to have the beginning of wisdom bringing FEAR, but not enough, he had MORE FEAR of CEASAR –

¹² From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar." ¹³ When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called *The Pavement*, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" John 19:12–14 (NKJV)

Pilate's judgment about Jesus Christ. NOT as FEARFUL as Caesar!

4. True fearing of God means not fearing men –

⁴ "And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵ But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! Luke 12:4–5 (NKJV)

III. The truth about the Jews, they feared, honored and respected Caesar too, they despised God, judge God in Christ, worthy of death ...

And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵ But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" John 19:14 b - :15 (NKJV)

1. Ceasar was their dreaded enemy, but powerful!
2. They could not, would not see Jesus' life-giving, saving power, His KINGDOM– We have no king but Caesar!"

⁵³ Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. Isaiah 53:1–4 (NKJV)

3. Jesus had / has a moral and spiritual BEAUTY, the kind we DON'T see unless we are born-again – John 3:3; 1 Corinthians 2:9-16 We cannot see, to judge aright, unless God gives us spiritual SIGHT!