

**I. As we approach Passion week, we are meditating on the Apostle John's view of it.**

**A. What is happening? The main atoning event the gospel. The torture of God.**

1. The religious trials. Annas, Caiaphas, Sanhedrin.
2. The civil trials. Pilate, Antipas, Pilate
3. John only relates some parts of the trial sequence.

**B. Who is really on trial here?**

1. Jesus, of course, on the surface, but it is a false accusation carried out by hypocritical religious people and angry non-religious people. Fallen humans "trying" God.
2. But so are the disciples, testing their courage and strength, which they fail.
  - a) Their faith does not fail, though (Lk.22:31-32)
3. And so is the world itself, testing its relationship with God, which is rebellion.
  - a) The unbelieving religious world (odd)
  - b) The Pagan/secular/atheist world

**C. What has happened so far? 18:33-40**

1. Jesus has revealed a different kingdom, sourced in heaven.

**II. What is the King doing? Four things. John 19:1-16.**

**A. He is despising the shame. 1-5. Heb.12:1-2**

1. Despise= to feel contempt for someone or something because it is thought to be bad or without value — 'to despise, to scorn, to look down on.'
2. Shame = the internal anguish of others looking down on you.
3. *Guilt is about what we have done. Shame about who we are. The Lord has taken both and granted innocence and glory.*  
*Rom.8:30*

**B. He is looking past this age, into the Joy. Heb.12:2. Jn.17:5 (Col.3:1-4)**

1. The Joy of defeating sin and death and rescuing his people.
2. The coming Glory and Honor. Phil.2:8-11

**C. He is trusting His Father's sovereignty. 6-11. Acts 2:23; Gen.50:20**

1. This is our promise, too. **Rom.8:28.**
2. Much evil does happen, but God is doing something eternally good.

**D. He is forcing humanity's hand. 12-16 To admit what they really want—not God!**

1. *We have no king but Caesar!!! Wrong king...wrong kingdom.*
2. Humans, religious and secular, do not want God's Saving King.

### III. If the Kingdom of God is the ultimate reality, we must remember three things.

#### A. Don't be surprised at human evil. 6.

1. *There is no crime greater in all human history than this.*
2. Crucify Him!!! This is really insane hatred for no reason.
3. The Bible is clear about fallen human nature and its capacity for evil. Romans 1-3.

#### B. Do be astounded by God's Grace. 11 (1Jn.4:9-11)

##### 1. *He who turned me over has the greater **sin**. 11 (Judas? Caiaphas?)*

a) Jesus was thinking of the real problem. Sin. And human sin, the entire spectrum of it, is why God sent his Son, God in the flesh, to be the propitiation for us!

##### 2. **Note: There are degrees of sin, degrees of punishment. Matt.11:22.**

##### 3. **But there are no degrees of forgiveness. Rom.6:23**

a) No such thing as "greater forgiveness." Why? Because the blood of God in the flesh covers all sin of all people that come to him. Rom.3:19-28; 8:1-2.

4. *God in human form really and truly died and that divine/human death is sufficient to forgive all sin for all time!!! (Acts 20:28). It is all or nothing!!*

##### 5. **On the Cross Jesus did not say "It is almost finished."**

#### C. Absolutely make a choice of which kingdom you will belong to. Col.1:13

1. *We are born into Caesar's kingdom* where sin and injustice reign, suffering and eternal death are inevitable, and selfishness and violence are rampant.
2. *But Christ offers God's kingdom*, where the Father is Sovereign, Jesus is Lord, Spirit is at work, grace reigns, goodness is natural, new creation is a guarantee, and eternal, sinless joy awaits?
3. *Jesus is the real King in the only real eternal Kingdom.*

### IV. If we are not stunned by God's grace in Jesus Christ, we are out of touch with spiritual reality. Baptism on Easter Sunday.