

John 19:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him.

Analysis

Crucify him, crucify him (σταύρωσον σταύρωσον/staurōson staurōson)—the frenzied repetition reveals mob hysteria fueled by religious hatred. The chief priests and officers (archiereis kai hypēretai) who should have been shepherds became wolves, demanding the execution of the sinless One they claimed to serve.

Pilate's third declaration, **I find no fault in him** (οὐχ εὕρισκω ἐν αὐτῷ αἰτίαν/ouch heuriskō en autō aitian), is judicial acquittal. The Roman governor, paganism's representative, recognized Christ's innocence while Israel's religious leaders demanded His death. **Take ye him, and crucify him** drips with bitter irony—Pilate knows Jews cannot legally execute by crucifixion (18:31), yet he mockingly throws the responsibility back at them. The Innocent One stands condemned by those who claim righteousness.

Historical Context

Roman crucifixion was reserved for slaves, revolutionaries, and the lowest criminals—never for Roman citizens. It was designed for maximum humiliation and prolonged agony. The chief priests' public cry for crucifixion violated their own law against executing on Passover preparation day, revealing how far hatred had driven them beyond legal constraints.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does religious zeal divorced from truth produce the very evil it claims to oppose?
2. What does Pilate's triple declaration of innocence reveal about humanity's guilt in Christ's death?
3. When have you witnessed 'mob mentality' override individual conscience in Christian contexts?

Interlinear Text

ὅτε οὖν εἶδον αὐτῷ οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ οἱ
When **therefore** **saw** **him** G3588 **the chief priests** **and** G3588
G3753 G3767 G1492 G846 G749 G2532

ὑπηρέται ἐκραύγασαν λέγει σταυρώσατε· σταυρώσατε·
officers **they cried out** **saith** **Crucify** **Crucify**
G5257 G2905 G3004 G4717 G4717

λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Πιλᾶτος Λάβετε αὐτῷ ὑμεῖς καὶ
saith **him** G3588 **him Pilate** **Take** **him** **ye** **and**
G3004 G846 G4091 G2983 G846 G5210 G2532

σταυρώσατε· ἐγὼ γὰρ οὐχ εὐρίσκω ἐν αὐτῷ αἰτίαν
Crucify **I** **him for** **no** **find** **in** **him** **fault**
G4717 G1473 G1063 G3756 G2147 G1722 G846 G156

Additional Cross-References

John 18:31 (Parallel theme): Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:

John 19:4 (Parallel theme): Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.

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