

Mark 15:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled.

Analysis

But Jesus yet answered nothing (ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς οὐκέτι οὐδὲν ἀπεκρίθη, *ho de Iēsous ouketi ouden apekrithē*)—The emphatic οὐκέτι (*ouketi*, 'no longer, still not') combined with οὐδὲν (*ouden*, 'nothing') stresses Jesus's resolute silence. This wasn't passive victimhood but active fulfillment of prophecy. **So that Pilate marvelled** (ὥστε θαυμάζειν τὸν Πιλάτον, *hōste thaumazein ton Pilaton*)—The verb θαυμάζω (*thaumazō*) means to wonder, be amazed, marvel.

The Roman governor—accustomed to desperate pleas, eloquent defenses, or defiant speeches—encountered something unprecedented: divine silence. The construction ὥστε (*hōste*, 'so that') indicates result—Jesus's silence produced Pilate's amazement. Throughout the Gospels, people marvel at Jesus's teaching (1:22), authority (2:12), and miracles (5:20), but here Pilate marvels at His silence. The King who spoke worlds into existence now saves the world through silence.

Historical Context

Pilate's amazement is psychologically and historically credible. Roman histories (Tacitus, Josephus) portray Pilate as harsh and expedient, not given to sentimentality. His amazement suggests Jesus's demeanor was extraordinary—neither cowering fear nor arrogant defiance, but regal composure. This silence also protected Jesus's followers; had He elaborated on His kingdom or named disciples, Rome might have moved against the nascent church. His silence was strategic as well as prophetic.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What did Pilate see in Jesus that caused a hardened Roman governor to marvel?
2. How does Jesus's silence protect His disciples while fulfilling His mission to die?
3. Why is Jesus's silence before false accusations more powerful than any verbal defense could have been?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	Ἰησοῦς	οὐκέτι	οὐδὲν	ἀπεκρίθη	ὥστε	θαυμάζειν
G3588	But	Jesus	yet	nothing	answered	so	marvelled
	G1161	G2424	G3765	G3762	G611	G5620	G2296

τὸν	Πιλάτον
G3588	that Pilate
	G4091

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 53:7 (Parallel theme): He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Zechariah 3:8 (Parallel theme): Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.

Psalms 71:7 (Parallel theme): I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge.

1 Corinthians 4:9 (Parallel theme): For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.

Matthew 27:14 (Parallel theme): And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

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