

## **Pontius Pilate and the Origins of Acquiescence – The Ancient Lobbyists**

Before the Crucifixion, Governor Pilate argued heartily for the release of Jesus, but faced with an angry lobby of Priests & Lawyers (the Pharisees) and High Society people (the Sadducees), he ultimately chose to have Jesus crucified, even though he knew Jesus wasn't guilty of anything whatsoever.

I have often wondered if that may have been the origin of our modern-day politics. And because it's gone on for so long, I think that's disconcerting.

Here's Luke's account, which is almost precisely corroborated in other parts of the Bible:

### **Luke 23 (MSG)**

#### **Pilate**

<sup>1-2</sup> Then they all took Jesus to Pilate and began to bring up charges against him. They said, “We found this man undermining our law and order, forbidding taxes to be paid to Caesar, setting himself up as Messiah-King.”

<sup>3</sup> Pilate asked him, “Is this true that you’re ‘King of the Jews’?”

“Those are your words, not mine,” Jesus replied.

<sup>4</sup> Pilate told the high priests and the accompanying crowd, “I find nothing wrong here. He seems harmless enough to me.”

<sup>5</sup> But they were vehement. “He’s stirring up unrest among the people with his teaching, disturbing the peace everywhere, starting in Galilee and now all through Judea. He’s a dangerous man, endangering the peace.”

<sup>6-7</sup> When Pilate heard that, he asked, “So, he’s a Galilean?” Realizing that he properly came under Herod’s jurisdiction, he passed the buck to Herod, who just happened to be in Jerusalem for a few days.

<sup>8-10</sup> Herod was delighted when Jesus showed up. He had wanted for a long time to see him, he’d heard so much about him. He hoped to see him do something spectacular. He peppered him with questions. Jesus didn’t answer—not one word. But the high priests and religion scholars were right there, saying their piece, strident and shrill in their accusations.

<sup>11-12</sup> Mightily offended, Herod turned on Jesus. His soldiers joined in, taunting and jeering. Then they dressed him up in an elaborate king costume and sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became thick as thieves. Always before they had kept their distance.

<sup>13-16</sup> Then Pilate called in the high priests, rulers, and the others and said, “You brought this man to me as a disturber of the peace. I examined him in front of all of you and found there was nothing to your charge. And neither did Herod, for he has sent him back here with a clean bill of health. It’s clear that he’s done nothing wrong, let alone anything deserving death. I’m going to warn him to watch his step and let him go.”

<sup>18-20</sup> At that, the crowd went wild: “Kill him! Give us Barabbas!” (Barabbas had been thrown in prison for starting a riot in the city and for murder.) Pilate still wanted to let Jesus go, and so spoke out again.

<sup>21</sup> But they kept shouting back, “Crucify! Crucify him!”

<sup>22</sup> He tried a third time. “But for what crime? I’ve found nothing in him deserving death. I’m going to warn him to watch his step and let him go.”

<sup>23-25</sup> But they kept at it, a shouting mob, demanding that he be crucified. And finally they shouted him down. Pilate caved in and gave them what they wanted. He released the man thrown in prison for rioting and murder, and gave them Jesus to do whatever they wanted.

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This is why I love the brave people who stand firm on their convictions regardless of the odds or of what may or may not be popular.

I hope you have an incredible day!!

- Jack