

Gospel of Mark
Chapter 15:1-20
4th Sunday of Lent
Battle for Authority



15:1-5

1. The Sanhedrin was gathered. Just who makes up the Sanhedrin and what do they do?

HEBREW TRIBUNALS (were three in kind)

1. THE GREAT SANHEDRIN

- a. The Grand Council
- b. It sat at Jerusalem
- c. The high court of justice and the supreme tribunal of the Jews.
- d. It numbered 71 members.
- e. Its powers were:
 1. Legislative
 2. Executive
 3. Judicial

2. THE MINOR SANHEDRIN

3. THE LOWER SANHEDRIN

NAME

"Sanhedrin" denotes a legislative assembly or an ecclesiastical council deliberating in a sitting posture.

ORIGIN

Established in Jerusalem between 170 and 106 B.C.

NUMBER

23 members from each of three chambers (69) plus 2 presiding officers, brought the total number to 71.



2. The problem is that they don't have authority to execute someone because they are a Roman province so they have to bring him to Pilate. Pontius Pilate was the 5th Roman Governor (Prefect) of Judaea (AD 26–36), best known for presiding over the trial of Jesus and authorizing his crucifixion. Appointed by Emperor Tiberius, he was a stern, often unpopular leader caught between political pressure and his belief that Jesus was innocent.

a. Quick Facts: Pontius Pilate

- i. Best Known For: Presiding over the trial of Jesus and ordering his execution by crucifixion.
- ii. Character: Portrayed as reluctant to execute Jesus, yet ultimately yielding to pressure to avoid a riot.
- iii. Legacy: Mentioned in the Apostle's and Nicene Creeds; historically confirmed through a discovered inscription (the "Pilate Stone").
- iv. Actions: Often provoked tensions with local Jewish residents by displaying Roman religious symbols.

3. So is Pilate in charge? Is he motivating this thing? Does he have the authority?

4. Why does Jesus remain silent? (Isaiah 53:7)

5. Why is Pilate amazed?

Mark 15:6-15

1. So who is the "crowd"?

2. Insurrection? Important crime in the Israelite world? (4th Cmt)

3. What happened to Barabbas?

a. We don't know. Some legends state he was killed in another uprising.

b. Pietro Sarubbi, the Italian actor who played Barabbas in *The Passion of the Christ* (2004), converted to Catholicism and came to faith during the filming. A formerly non-believing actor, he described feeling an electric current and experiencing a profound spiritual shift when his eyes met those of Jim Caviezel (Jesus) during the scene where Barabbas is released.

4. It was a tradition at the time to release a prisoner to keep the crowds happy.

5. Why have him scourged?

Mark 15:16-20



1. Why a purple robe?
2. Why a crown of thorns?
3. What kind of worship did Jesus get in his life?

