

# THE LAMB SCRUTINIZED

Exodus 12:5-6

**Introduction:** In the last message, we saw the Lamb selected. The father of the family chose a lamb. What was this lamb supposed to be? It is to be male of the first year. This is the only part of the Passover that Jesus did not fulfill. But He is the firstborn.

Colossians 1:15

***"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature"***

It is a lamb. This had to be a special lamb. Lambs for Passover sacrifices were well fed and protected.

The word "scrutinized" means to examine carefully. I used this illustration. When you buy a car, you will look at every part of the car or should look carefully. You check the oil, transmission fluid, the mileage and the body of the car. You look at the tires, paint, and windshield wipers. You want the best you can get for your money.

This word describes what our Lord Jesus went through those days before his crucifixion. I want to explore this thought today.

## II. THE LAMB SCRUTINIZED. Vs.4-5

***"And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb." "Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats"***

- A. Can we see this scrutinizing in the life of the Lord Jesus? In fact, he was examined in every part of His life. Let's give seven areas. It will show how His entire life was spotless in every part of his life.
1. He was the master of every situation, taking exactly the right action to fit the circumstances. Never having to seek advice before acting and never having to back or apologizing after he acted.
  2. He never had to ask for permission, since He always spoke with authority or forgiveness, since He never said or did anything amiss.
  3. He had no consciousness of sins or shortcomings in His life yet never conveying any impression of pride or make-believe of holiness in His manner.
  4. He was never fearful of anything and could be overpowering bold when occasion required it and yet He was gentle and meek in the highest degree.
  5. His words were always perfectly chosen to fit the need of absolute purity and wholesomeness, never trivial, always to the point and meaningful.
  6. He never complained about His circumstances in spite of weariness, hunger, poverty, persecution and rejection but instead provided continual encouragement and comfort to others. He was equally confident and authoritative with friends and enemies; common people or leaders; never flustered or confused what to say or do regardless of the company or circumstances.
- B. Who scrutinized Jesus before His death? Let's look at them together. Our Lord Jesus has six trials.
1. His first trial was before Annas.

John 18:12-14

***"Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him," "And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year." "Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people."***

Annas was the high priest's father in law. Why was he the first one who examined the Lord Jesus? It may have been probably his house was nearest to them. He had great authority and influence in the Jewish nation. He had been himself a long time

high-priest. It was of importance, therefore, to obtain his approval and counsel in their work of evil. It may have been that Jesus had been a "troublemaker" when He cleanse the Temple of the moneychangers and the sellers of the lambs and doves for the sacrifices. Men of influence hate those affect their wallets.

With Annas' agreement, the others had the go sign for the other trials that would eventually lead to the death of our Lord Jesus.

2. His second trial was with the high-priest Caiaphas.

Matthew 26:57-68

**"And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled." "But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end." "Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death;" "But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses," "And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days." "And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?" "But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God." "Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." "Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy." "What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death." "Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands," "Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?"**

This trial was to charge Him with blasphemy. Think about this for a moment. This was speaking against God. This was a very serious charge. What these men did not realize that they were the ones that was speaking against God. Jesus is and will always God.

John 1:1-4, 14

**"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." "The same was in the beginning with God." "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."**

These men not only blasphemed against God. They actually hit God physically.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:8

**"Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."**

3. His third trial was by the council of the ruling elders of Israel. Before going any further, each of these three trials were all illegal. No trial in Israel was to done in the night. But the Bible has this to say about darkness.

John 3:19

**"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."**

Let's look at this passage too.

Matthew 27:1-2

**"When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:" "And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor."**

Why did they take Jesus to Pilate instead of stoning Him to death. That was what Jewish law required. It was because they were under Roman law and Roman law would not allow them to execute people. Also they wanted to torture the Lord Jesus for the supposed wrongs against them.

Pilate finds Jesus not guilty. This should have stopped everything but this was not God's plan. God's plan was for the Lord Jesus. He was to be crucified on the cross. He was made sin for us.

5. The fifth trial was before Herod.

Luke 23:6-12

**"When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean." "And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time." "And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him." "Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing." "And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him." "And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate." "And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves."**

Pilate knew these Jews would give up. But Jesus was from Nazareth of Galilee. So he was able to send Jesus to Herod hoping he would take care this problem. But Herod found Jesus not guilty too.

6. The final trial of Jesus was with Pilate again. Let's look at this final examination.

John 18:39-19:6

**"But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?" "Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber." "Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him." "And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe," "And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands." "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." "Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!" "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."**

Pilate thought he had three options. The first one was that he found the worse person that he offered in place of Jesus but the Jewish people showed how much they rejected Him.

The second option is that they scourged Jesus. They beat Him so severely that it was hard for people to recognized Him. Yet the Jewish people had no pity upon Him. They wanted to crucify Him.

So the third option was the one that he did. He condemned Jesus to be crucify Him even though Pilate still found no fault in Him.

**Conclusion:** The lamb had be scrutinized very carefully. No one could find any sin in Him. He was without blemish. He was the perfect lamb for the Passover.

We need to examine ourselves. Maybe you are here today and you are not saved. This is why Jesus came to earth.

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:21

**"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."**

Today you can take Him as your Saviour. Come to the sinless, spotless Lamb of God for His salvation.