

Series: John

Title: The Lord's Answer

Text: John 19: 7-11

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John 19: 7: The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God. 8: When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid; 9: And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. 10: Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? 11: Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power *at all* against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.

Pilate heard the Pharisee's say that Christ had said that he is the Son of God. It made Pilate afraid. When Pilate asked the Lord Jesus, Whence art thou? Our Lord Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate was amazed.

Matthew 27:12: And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. 13: Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? 14: And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

Then Pilate boasted that he had power to crucify or to release the Lord Jesus. When Pilate said that our Lord answered. He declared to Pilate, "*Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above.*"

When it came to himself and the accusations against him, the Lord Jesus gave no answer. But when it came to the glory that belongs to God our Father alone, the Lord Jesus answered, declaring God's glory.

Proposition: When it comes to defending yourself, trust the Lord Jesus to defend you. When it comes to the glory that belongs to God, declare the truth of the gospel.

HE ANSWERED NOT

Our Lord Jesus could have easily vindicated himself. He had no sin-nature and never sinned. But the Son of God came to save his people from our sins. He bore the sin of his people. Therefore, he would do nothing to justify and save himself. If he had defended himself then he would not be depending upon the Father in perfect faith. Had our Substitute vindicated himself he would not have saved his people from our sins. He could not, would not speak, because to justify himself would be to condemn his bride.

Our Lord's silence declares his holy, faithful, obedient heart toward the Father and his faithful love to his people. The Lord Jesus was silent because he would offer his soul unto God in the obedience of perfect faith from a holy heart. Our Lord's was silent because he was the Substitute of his people. His silence declares that he is perfect Wisdom. His silence declares he is the sin-bearing Lamb of God, the Substitute of his people.

Proverbs 17:27: He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

Colossians 2:3: In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Isaiah 53: 11...by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

His silence declares he is the faithful Substitute of his people. Our Lord's silence declares he is the Lamb without spot who bore all the sins of his people. Therefore, as a "lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth" (Acts 8: 32).

The Lord not answering to defend himself is an example of how that while he bore all the sins of his people that God might be just to pour out justice upon him, yet, in his heart he was holy and faithful to God. He

committed himself to God, perfectly trusting the Father's covenant promise. Though he bore our spots in his own body on the tree, YET in his soul, "*through the eternal Spirit [he] offered himself without spot to God.*" (Heb 9: 14). Therefore, he gave himself into God's hands to judge righteously and he gave his back to those who smote him.

1 Peter 2:22:...when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered he threatened not, but committed it to himself to him that judgeth righteously

Isaiah 50: 6: I gave my back to the smiters...I hid not my face from shame and spitting. 7: For the Lord GOD will help me;...8: He is near that justifieth me;...9:...who is he that shall condemn me?

Brethren, when Christ is our Wisdom, when Christ is our Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption, then it is wisdom to know we do not have to answer every man. Often silence is best. You can say of our Redeemer what he said of God the Father, "*the Lord GOD will help me;...He is near that justifieth me;...who is he that shall condemn me?*" That is what the Spirit of God said of his people through Paul. Notice how Romans 8 is like our Lord's word in Isaiah 50. You, believer, can say this as our Lord said when he represented you.

Romans 8: 33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

HE ANSWERED

John 19: 10: Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? 11: Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power *at all* against me, except it were given thee from above:

Pilate boasted about his power over Christ, to do what he would with him. Pilate is saying, "I can crucify you or let you go. I can be on your side or against you, so you had better answer me!"

Then the Lord answered. He would not defend himself when accused. But he glorified the Father when God's glory was attacked. He said "Pilate; you could not have any power over me at all except it were given you from above."

Our Lord Jesus *was* about to go to the cross and bear our sin and curse. Therefore he *could not and would not* open his mouth to defend himself; he would not answer Pilate to justify himself. But when natural, sinful man boasted of his power, ability and freedom of will, Christ answered. Then he glorified the Father, "*Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above.*"

Both his silence and his reply to Pilate was our Lord's perfect faith in his Father. Both are our Lord's perfect love for God and his brethren. In perfect faith, he knew God the Father willed everything and was working everything he bore.

Psalm 118:8: *It is* better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. 9: *It is* better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

We, nor any other man, could have any power at all except it were given from above. Our birth is by God's decree. Our being his servants is by God's decree. If he sends us to speak his word it is of God. Listen to what God said to Jeremiah--this is so of God's preachers and of all God's elect. And also Christ in Jeremiah--this is true of Christ Jesus, God's Prophet, Priest and King.

Jeremiah 1: 5: Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. 6: Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I *am* a child. 7: But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I *am* a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. 8: Be not afraid of their faces: for I *am* with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. 9: Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in

thy mouth. 10: See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Who we were born to, where we born, when we were born is all by God Almighty's decree, by his appointment, by his will. None is by our own will. So it is in the new birth. So it is in the things God ordained in our life. Whatever we have or do not have is by God's decree and God's power.

1 Samuel 2: 7: The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. 8: He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, *and* lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set *them* among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth *are* the LORD'S, and he hath set the world upon them. 9: He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

Whatever knowledge we have, whatever ability, whatever talents--all are of God's grace, the Lord gave it.

1 Corinthians 4:7: Who maketh thee to differ from another? What has thou that thou didst not received? Now, if thou didst receive it; why dost thou boast as if you did not receive it?

Spiritual knowledge is given us by God's power and grace. Christ said,

Matthew 11:25: I thank thee Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent and hast revealed them unto babes.

Job believed everything that was given him and everything taken from him was of the Lord. He said, "Naked came I out of mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither. The Lord gave..." And when Job lost everything including his health, he said, "and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

So when our Lord came into this suffering and rejection of men, facing the cross, he knew it was given of God. "*Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above.*" The apostle Paul knew his suffering was of God's hand. He said God gave him the stripes and the shipwrecks and satan to buffet him. Why did God do so? Paul said, "Lest I be exalted above measure; there was given to me a thorn in the flesh." God gave it to him for Paul's good and for the glory of God.

The best thing for us is to fall in the dust and cast all our care into God's hands, crying, "Lord, I'm in your hands. Please teach me, keep me, and do with me what you will. I'm a babe. A child dependent upon my Father. Lord, save me." Trust the faithful One. Believe on Christ. Commit yourself and all your cares to him who judges righteously.

Has your character and works of faith been maligned by men to turn others against you? Look to Christ. We oppressed and afflicted him, pouring contempt upon him and all his offices. Of his kingly office, we crowned him with thorns, put a purple robe on him, and bowed the knee mocking, said, "Hail king of the Jews." Of his prophetic office, we blind-folded him and said, "prophecy, who is it that smote thee." Of his priestly office, we reviled him, saying, "He saved others, himself he cannot save." Yet, when it came to revealing who he is so as to vindicate himself and deliver himself from suffering, our Lord Jesus "*answered Pilot nothing.*" He must save his people from our sins. He must be condemned in our place. Therefore,

Isaiah 53: 7: 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.

Have men boasted of their power over you? Look to Christ. When it came to Pilot stealing the glory of God our Father by Pilot's boasting of his own power, the Lord Jesus Christ said, "Pilate; don't boast! You could have no power at all except it were given you from above."

Do you sometimes think you will not overcome? Look to Christ. At last he cried, "It is finished!" Do you see his faithfulness? Do you see Christ is the one you can depend on? He justified his people. If he has called you to faith then you are complete in Christ. He is the LORD our Righteousness. Therefore, he is near that justifieth! He shall deliver you. By the grace of God, he has made us return to the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. All power is Christ's, as the GodMan, Mediator. He is our Substitute. He is our Lord

and our Savior. No man can have any power at all except it be of our sovereign Savior. So let us be "swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (Ja 1: 19). And let us commit all to him. He judges righteously for his people

Psalm 37:5: Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.

1 Peter 5: 6: Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Amen!