

Palm Sunday Processions

Peasant Procession- Jesus

- East Side of Jerusalem, coming from round trip to the Sea of Galilee where Jesus preached throughout the countryside
- Participants were Jesus and his disciples. Most in attendance were peasants.
- Rode in on a donkey with ragtag followers.
- Prearranged parade
- In Jerusalem for the festival of Passover
- Jesus' title in the parade was Son of David, a callback to Israel & Judea's "good old days." His other title was Son of God. Both of these are political and theological claims
- Jerusalem was called the City of David, and David's son Solomon built the Temple.
- Economic & Political Power- Jesus brought a message of liberation for the lowly, and political and economic ruin for the powerful. He would turn over the tables of the money changers in the Temple and could not be corrupted.
- The truth of real power was so strong that it had to be spoken, even if it was by stones. This truth scared those who perceived it to be a threat to the order of the domination system in which they played their role.

Imperial Procession- Pilate

- West Side of Jerusalem, coming from Caesarea Maritima where Pilate lived most of the year in a palace
- Participants in the procession were military reinforcements for the garrison stationed in Jerusalem. Onlookers were paid.
- Pilate was likely in a chariot, and his soldiers were well organized
- Prearranged parade
- In Jerusalem for the festival (because they are about liberation)
- Caesar was not only the ruler of the Roman Empire; he was called Son of God. Rome was at its highest point and there was no nostalgia.
- Herod, governor before Pilate re-built the Temple and gave it its current splendor.
- Economic & Political Reality: Elite of Jerusalem were very wealthy and benefitted from a system of domination. Festivals brought money. Religious leaders benefitted as well, but caught between keeping Romans happy and the people happy. The Romans were both clients and rulers. Corruption ruled.
- The truth of real power was obscured by brute force. It was military might and bribes that gave Pilate his cheers.