



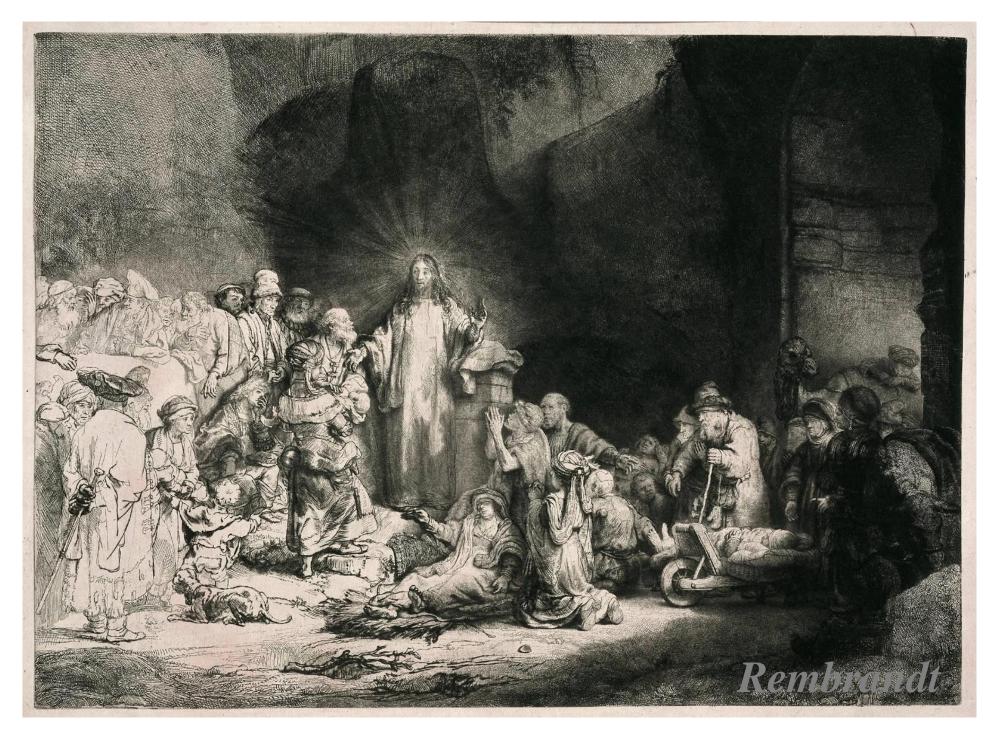


Night Watch, 1642

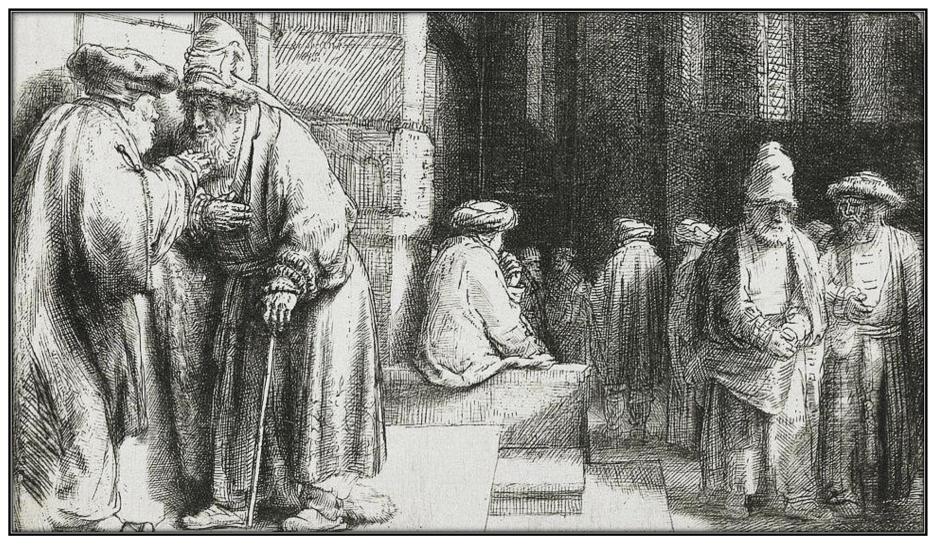
Rembrandt painted *The Militia Company of Captain Frans Banning Cocq* between 1640 and 1642. This picture was called the *Nachtwacht* (*Night Watch*) because by the 18th century the picture was so dimmed and defaced by time that it looked quite like a night scene. After it was cleaned, it was discovered to represent broad day—a party of musketeers stepping from a gloomy courtyard into the blinding sunlight.

The piece was commissioned for the new hall of the musketeer branch of the civic militia. Rembrandt departed from convention, which ordered that such pieces should be stately and formal, rather a line-up than an action scene. Instead he showed the militia readying themselves to embark on a mission.

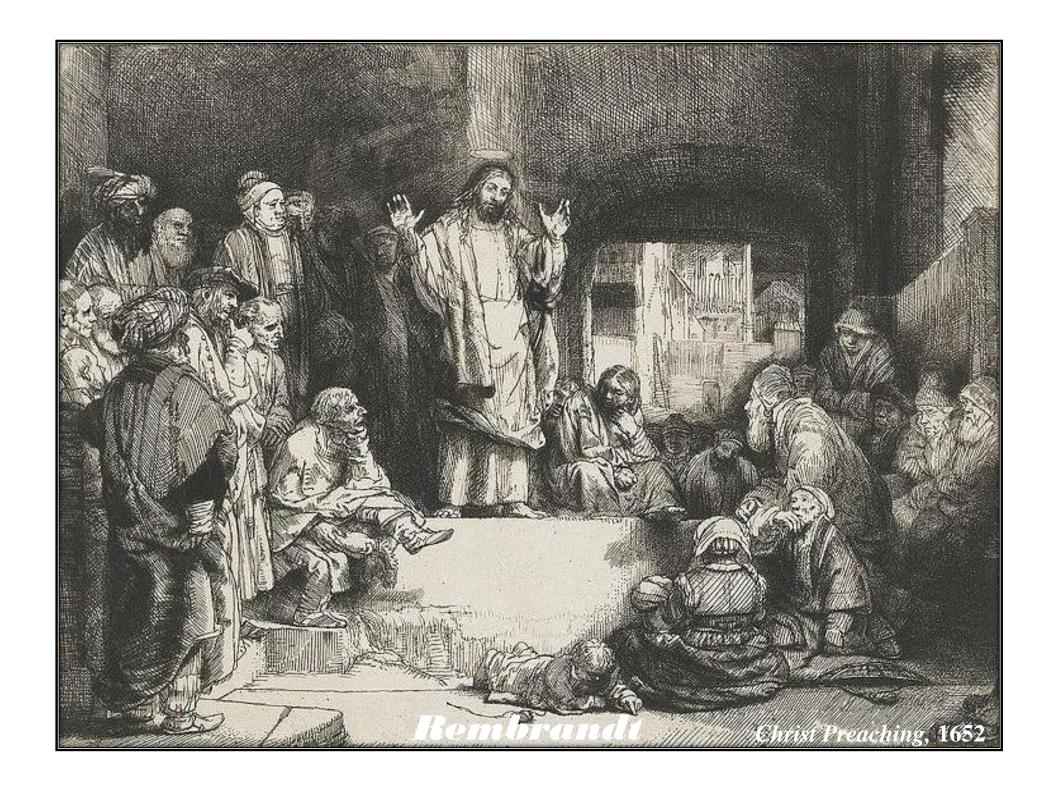
The work was hailed as a success from the beginning. Parts of the canvas were cut off (approximately 20% from the left hand side was removed) to make the painting fit its new position when it was moved to Amsterdam town hall in 1715. There is has a smaller copy of what is thought to be the full original composition at the Rijksmuseum. The four figures in the front are at the center of the canvas.

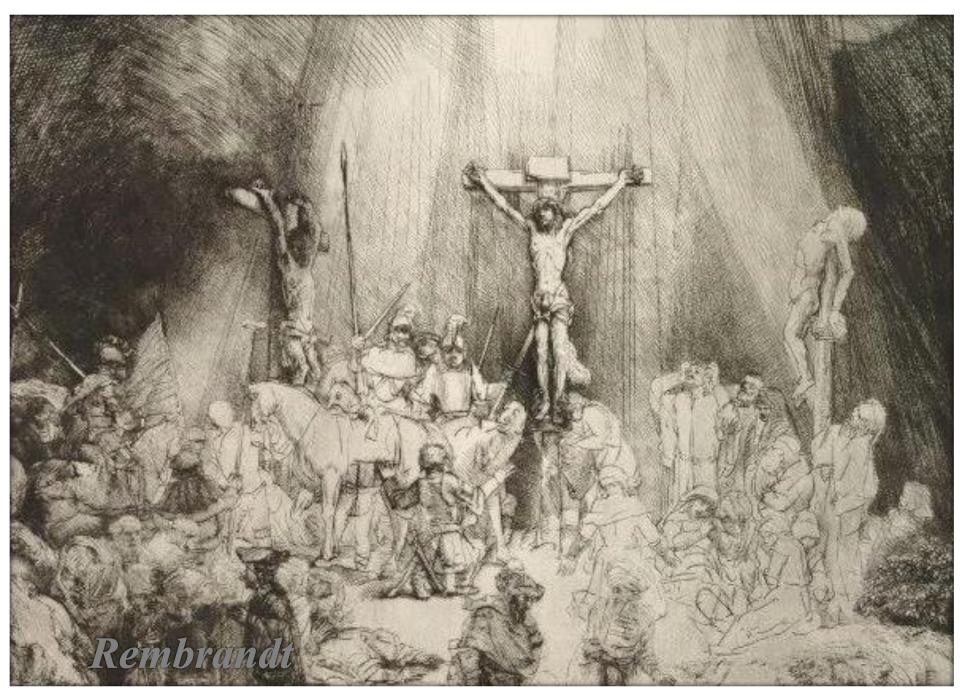


The Hundred Guilder Print - etching, c. 1647



Pharisees in the Temple, 1648





Christ Crucified Between the Two Thieves ["Three Crosses"], 1653

