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Reading - John ch 19 v 1-4, 8-11, 13-16

Pilate was the general governor of Judea. He usually stayed in Tiberius but had to come up to Jerusalem when there was a special occasion or any trouble. In this passage he had to come up to Jerusalem for the Passover time. The Passover had become a very busy time more like a public holiday.

Pilate moved in very powerful circles. He would not have known that day would change his life forever, that his words and actions would be recorded in heaven, the Bible and historical documentation.

What you do with Jesus will determine where you spend eternity?

The Lord Jesus, God's own Son was born as a babe in Bethlehem. He worked with his hands and went about doing good. In whatever social circle he was in he did good. He came to Jerusalem and told His disciples what was going to happen. He was to be arrested in the garden of Gethsemane and delivered into the hands of the gentiles. He was then taken to the high priest for interrogation then further interrogated by Caiaphas. He was condemned and had been manhandled before being brought before Pilate. Only Pilate could pronounce the death sentence. Under Jewish law 24 hours had to lapse between a person being condemned and being sentenced but Roman law was different. God word tells us He would be delivered into Gentile hands. Permissive will of God.

This was a difficult decision for Pilate:

Day of dilemma
Day of decision
Day of departure

We've all been in difficult circumstances at some point in our lives.

What problem did Pilate have?

He had to do right. His decision was between the mob or the man.

When Pilate asked the people what accusation had been brought against this man nobody could bring about an accusation.

“hated me without a cause”

We can see examples of hate in the Old Testament:

Daniel was hated for his prayers
King David was hated for his praises
Joseph was hated for his probity

God said from heaven

“This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased”

Pilate found no fault. There was a custom where at this religious festival one prisoner could be released from prison. Pilate thought the people would choose Jesus but they chose Barabbas. This was all done publicly. Pilate decided to talk privately with God's Son face to face.

Have you ever had dealings with God face to face?

God knows the heart of man.

The Lord Jesus said, "I am the way the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

The purpose of His coming was to "seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10)

The problem of the world is sin. The people rejected Jesus and didn't want Him to reign over them. Pilate then sent the Lord Jesus to Herod. Herod and Pilate became friends that day but Herod was no help. Pilate delivered Jesus to be crucified. The Lord Jesus Christ had to carry His cross and was crucified in shame.

The reason - made His soul an offering for sin. Your sin and mine. He went out to die. We are tainted by sin. Without Christ, you are lost in sin tonight.

The Bible never lies. The Lord Jesus gave Himself, but you must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. He died so that we could be freed from the bondage of sin.