

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010

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Reading: Matthew ch 27 v 15 - 26

We meet three men in this section Barabbas, Pilate and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord “came to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10)

It was a time of feasting with holy and religious feasts the people were trying to keep God in their feasts yet they forgot Christ and pushed Him out of their minds and hearts then they delivered Him to be crucified. The Passover feast remembered them about the children of Israel and the lamb whose blood protected them from the angel of death.

John announced Jesus as “The Lamb of God Which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29)

The people should have been thinking about Christ saving sinners. He was the true Passover lamb. In 1 Cor 5:7, we read, “Even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us”

The governor was going to release a prisoner. This was the people's time to choose. Pilate wanted to please the people. This raises the question, Who are you trying to please in your life?

You cannot please man but it is possible to please God. He looks beyond our feelings and sees our hearts.

Pilate wanted to show his mercy. He had the power to set people free. There was a choice between Barabbas, a murderer, and Christ, the son of God. Pilate was trying to set the guilty free. He was giving the people their choice. Barabbas was a notable prisoner.

Who would you rather have roaming the streets, Barabbas, the murderer, or Christ, the Saviour?

We have got sins in our lives. The Bible says, “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom 3:23). Sin is horrible in the sight of God.

John writes, “The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world” (1 John 4:14). Solomon says of the Son that He was “Daily His delight” (Prov 8:30), He said, “I must be about my Fathers business” (Luke 2:49). As He died, He said, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). Christ died at Calvary’s cross, shedding His blood that He would provide Salvation.

Pilate asked, Who will I release? We will have to make a choice. Pilate called Jesus “ The Christ”, the Chosen One, the Messiah, the Saviour of the world. He gave Him one of His titles.

What will your choice be?

Pilate knew the motives of the people. He was a clever man and knew the hearts of the people.

We need to rememebr that we must answer to God Who says, “I the Lord searched the hearts” (Jer 17:10). When the Lord looks at us He knows our hearts and our thoughts. The one that knows our hearts and wants to cleanse our hearts. We need our hearts cleaned by Christ.

When God speaks we have to listen. Pilate's wife had warned him about Christ. We have a warning about Christ, “He is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners” (Heb 7:26). He is both righteous and the judge of sinners. Christ wants to save you. Do not miss Him.

Pilate's wife suffered many things in a dream because of Him. Have you ever considered the one who suffered for us.

The one Who is without sin was taken and nailed to the cross, He suffered and died instead of the sinner - instead of us. Does your conscience speak to you? We can knock our conscience and ignore

God.

Pilate's wife said, "He is a just man" Pilate said, "He is an innocent man", but it is not enough to acknowledge this you have to accept the Lord as your Saviour. God says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psa 34:8). Unless you believe Him and taste of the Lord Jesus Christ you will not be saved.

The religious people wanted to destroy Jesus. Religious is rotten to the core. It is man trying to reach up to God in their own strength. Christianity is God reaching down to man. The experts of the law in that day had searched their conscience. They wanted Him to be crucified. They ignored God who said, "Thou shalt not kill, bare false witness ...". We all need to realise "Our righteousness is as filthy rags" (Isa 64:6)

"What shall I do with Jesus?" This was Pilate's decision on that day, a decision comes to all of us on that matter. The crowd cried out, "let Him be crucified". They rejected Him.

Joshua challenged the people, "Choose you this day whom thou shall serve.. but as for me and my house shall serve the Lord" (Josh 24:15)

What will be your decision? What answer would you give today: "Let Him be crucified"?

Do not blame God for society today it is because the people back then chose Barabbas, and still do. May you take the Lord as your Saviour - Choose Christ.