

Glimpses of Jesus' Gift of Himself

I. Prayer in the garden

- i. Mark 14:26, 32-36; Matthew 26:40-42; Luke 22:43-46

II. The arrest in the garden

- i. John 18:2-10; Luke 22:51; Matthew 26:52-56

III. The trials

a. Annas

- i. John 18:12-14; 19-23 (pre-dawn)

b. Caiaphas & the Sanhedrin

- i. Luke 22:54; Mark 14:55-60; Matthew 26:63; Mark 14:62; Matthew 26:65-68; Luke 22:66-71

c. Pilate (the first time)

- i. John 18:28-38; Luke 23:5

d. Herod

- i. Luke 23:6-12

e. Pilate (the second time)

- i. Luke 23:13-16; Matthew 27:15-21; Luke 23:19; Matthew 27:20; Luke 23:20-23; John 19:1-15; Matthew 27:24-30

IV. The walk to Calvary

- i. Mark 15:20-22; Luke 23:27; 32-33; Matthew 27:34

V. The first 3 hours (Jesus' words are in reference to others)

- i. Luke 23:34; John 19:19-24; Matthew 27:39-43; Luke 23:39-43; John 19:25-27
- b. Luke 23:34; Father forgive them...**
- c. Luke 23:43; Today you will be with me...**
- d. John 19:26; Woman, behold, your son... Behold your mother.**

VI. The final 3 hours (Jesus' words are in reference to Himself)

- i. Matthew 27:45-49; John 19:28-30; Luke 23:46
- b. Mark 15:34; Matthew 27:46; My God My God...**
- c. John 19:28; I thirst**
- d. John 19:30; It is finished!**
- e. Luke 23:46; Father into Your hands I commit my spirit.**

VII. Jesus dies and is buried

- i. Matthew 27:51-54; Luke 23:47-48; John 19: 31-37; Luke 23:50-51; John 19:38-42; Matthew 27:60

VIII. Jesus is alive!

- i. Mark 16:1; Matthew 28:2-4; Mark 16:2-3; Luke 24:2-8; Matthew 28:8

This is my effort to put forth as complete of a picture of the day of our Lord's death beginning in the Garden of Gethsemane. I relied upon a work by A.T. Robertson called

"A Harmony of the Gospels." Taking a cue from R.A. Torrey, I want to do my best to allow the scriptures to speak for themselves. The power lies in the word of God, not the words of man.

I copied and pasted directly from the texts to try to include as many of the details as I could while maintaining a readable flow. If there is any error in doing so, it lies at my feet through human error not intentional omission. In saying that, for time's sake I did leave out Peter's denial and Judas' suicide. With the limited time I have this Good Friday, I want to allow the Scripture to speak for itself. I will limit my comments to a few observations and a final application.

Prayer in the Garden

"And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives." (Mark 14:26, ESV)

"And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."" (Mark 14:32–36, ESV)

"And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."" (Matthew 26:40–42, ESV)

"And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."" (Luke 22:43–46, ESV)

Arrest in the Garden

"Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?"

And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)" (John 18:2–10, ESV)

"But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him." (Luke 22:51, ESV)

"Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left him and fled." (Matthew 26:52–56, ESV)

The Trials

Annas

"So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people." (John 18:12–14, ESV)

"The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?"" (John 18:19–23, ESV)

Caiaphas & the Sanhedrin

"Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance." (Luke 22:54, ESV)

"Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in

three days I will build another, not made with hands.' " Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" (Mark 14:55–60, ESV)

"But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."" (Matthew 26:63, ESV)

"And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."" (Mark 14:62, ESV)

"Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?" (Matthew 26:65–68, ESV)

"When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, "If you are the Christ, tell us." But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God." So they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?" And he said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips."" (Luke 22:66–71, ESV)

Pilate (the first time)

"Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die. So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is

truth?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him." (John 18:28–38, ESV)

"But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place."'" (Luke 23:5, ESV)

Herod

"When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other." (Luke 23:6–12, ESV)

Pilate (the second time)

"Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore punish and release him."'" (Luke 23:13–16, ESV)

"Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas."'" (Matthew 27:15–21, ESV)

"a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder." (Luke 23:19, ESV)

"Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus." (Matthew 27:20, ESV)

"Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed." (Luke 23:20–23, ESV)

"Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin." From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."'" (John 19:1–15, ESV)

"So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head." (Matthew 27:24–30, ESV)

The Walk to Calvary

"And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him. And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull)." (Mark 15:20–22, ESV)

"And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him." (Luke 23:27, ESV)

"Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left." (Luke 23:32–33, ESV)

"they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it." (Matthew 27:34, ESV)

The First 3 Hours

"And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments." (Luke 23:34, ESV)

"Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.' " Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things," (John 19:19–24, ESV)

"And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.' "" (Matthew 27:39–43, ESV)

"One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are

receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:39–43, ESV)

"but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home." (John 19:25–27, ESV)

The Final 3 Hours

"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." (Matthew 27:45–49, ESV)

"After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." (John 19:28–30, ESV)

"Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last." (Luke 23:46, ESV)

Jesus Dies and is Buried

"And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:51–54, ESV)

"Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!" And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts." (Luke 23:47–48, ESV)

"Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and

broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”” (John 19:31–37, ESV)

“Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 23:50–51, ESV)

“After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.” (John 19:38–42, ESV)

“and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.” (Matthew 27:60, ESV)

Jesus is Alive!

“When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.” (Mark 16:1, ESV)

“And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.” (Matthew 28:2–4, ESV)

“And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?”” (Mark 16:2–3, ESV)

“And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be

crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words," (Luke 24:2–8, ESV)

"So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples." (Matthew 28:8, ESV)

I. Declarations of His innocence

II. Who bears the responsibility?

III. The innocent for the guilty

Declarations of His innocence

Pilate declared "I find no guilt in Him" 3 times in the Book of John, 18:38, 19:4,6

Pilate says in the Gospel of Luke "I find no guilt in this man... I did not find this man guilty... neither did Herod... nothing deserving of death has been done by Him." Luke 23:4,14,15

Not only Pilate finds Jesus innocent but Herod does too.

When they call for Jesus to be crucified Pilate adds "Why? What evil has He done?" in Mark 15:14 and Matthew 27:23

Judas knows He's innocent and declares it to the chief priests after he had betrayed Him. He says, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." Matthew 27:4

The centurion, a witness to possibly thousands of crucifixions declares "Certainly this man was innocent!" about Jesus. Not only does he confess Him to be the Son of God, but innocent. Luke 23:47

And the repentant thief says about Jesus, "this man has done nothing wrong." Luke 23:41

These are just witnessing to His trial and death. The author of Hebrews tells us that Jesus was without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

Jesus was declared not guilty over and over yet He died the death of the wicked and became a curse by hanging on a tree.

"Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him." (John 18:38, ESV)

"Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." (John 19:4, ESV)

“When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.”” (John 19:6, ESV)

“Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.”” (Luke 23:4, ESV)

“and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him.” (Luke 23:14, ESV)

“Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him.” (Luke 23:15, ESV)

“And Pilate said to them, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him.”” (Mark 15:14, ESV)

“And he said, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”” (Matthew 27:23, ESV)

“saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” They said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.”” (Matthew 27:4, ESV)

“Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!”” (Luke 23:47, ESV)

“Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!”” (Luke 23:47, ESV)

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15, ESV)

Who bears responsibility?

The Jewish leadership's motive was sinister. The Bible tells us that Pilate knew they had handed Jesus over because of jealousy. They didn't care about justice or even the law at that point. They held an illegal trial for Him under the cover of darkness. They heard contradicting obviously lying witnesses over and over until they could find something that almost agreed. They continued to press for His death. Certainly, they're responsible.

But Pilate. Pilate was a coward. He had the power to free Jesus. He even declared multiple times that Jesus wasn't guilty. Pilate couldn't decide who to fear more, Caesar, the Jewish leadership, the crowd. He was even afraid of Jesus. He was so cowardly that he tried to make no decision by compromising. He gave the crowd what they wanted

and tried washing his hands of responsibility. But he gave the word. He had Jesus scourged. He had Jesus crucified. Certainly, Pilate is responsible.

But what about the crowd? Who were they? People. People who were there. We don't know much about them. We know they were there. We know they saw Jesus standing in front of them. They heard Pilate declare Him innocent. They saw Him scourged. They saw Him beaten. They saw Him remain silent. Were some of them the same people who cried only a week earlier, "Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Yet they allowed themselves to be so influenced by others now that they cried "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" They allowed the mob mentality to take over. They were influenced by group think. With so many others shouting the same thing how could this be the fault of just one of them? They went along with everyone else without stopping to think for themselves. A crowd is made up of individuals. Individuals don't have to do what everyone else is doing, but they did. Without the crowd being in such a frenzy would Pilate have condemned Jesus? Certainly, the crowd is responsible.

But wait, is it only their responsibility? Romans 5 tells us that "... Christ died for the ungodly.... While we were still sinners Christ died for us.... While we were enemies...". We. Included in "we" is me. I'm ungodly. I'm a sinner. I'm an enemy of God apart from the Lord Jesus Christ. Isaiah 53 tells us that the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. I'm responsible. We all are.

The Innocent for the guilty

But wait, Jesus said to Pilate, "...for this purpose was I born and for this purpose I have come into the world." His testimony, His death had a purpose? Earlier in John 10, "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.... I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me. I lay it down of my own accord. I have the authority to lay it down, I have the authority to take it up again."

He came with the purpose of testifying to the truth, we're all guilty before God, He's innocent. The truth that apart from the work of Christ we'd all be eternally separated from Him. And for the purpose of laying down His life as a ransom.

He paid the complete price. The innocent for the guilty. It is finished. Will you waste this gift? What will you do with the price that was paid for you? Will you accept it by faith? Will you walk this life with Jesus as your Lord? Embrace Him by faith, He'll embrace you. I know He will because He's already embraced the full penalty of your guilt.

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21, ESV)