

Week of July 14 - I Am Innocent of This Man's Blood | Small Group Lesson 10

Connect

Review Matthew 20:17-19. As he expected, Jesus was delivered to the *Jewish leaders. They condemned him to death and delivered him over to the Gentiles to be mocked, flogged, and crucified. Then Jesus was to be raised on the third day.*

What does the mockery and torture of Jesus, teach us about the price of our Salvation and the glory of our Savior?

Verses - Matthew 27:15-28 (CSB - online edition)

15 At the festival the governor's custom was to release to the crowd a prisoner they wanted. 16 At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. 17 So when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Who is it you want me to release for you — Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" 18 For he knew it was because of envy that they had handed him over. 19 While he was sitting on the judge's bench, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for today I've suffered terribly in a dream because of him." 20 The chief priests and the elders, however, persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to execute Jesus. 21 The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" "Barabbas!" they answered. 22 Pilate asked them, "What should I do then with Jesus, who is called Christ?" They all answered, "Crucify him!" 23 Then he said, "Why? What has he done wrong?" But they kept shouting all the more, "Crucify him!" 24 When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that a riot was starting instead, he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am innocent of this man's blood. See to it yourselves!" 25 All the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" 26 Then he released Barabbas to them and, after having Jesus flogged, handed him over to be crucified. 27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's residence and gathered the whole company around him. 28 They stripped him and dressed him in a scarlet robe.

Study

TEXT:

1. In Verse 18:
    a. Who is “he”
    b. Who are “they” ***and of what are “they” envious and why?***
    c. Who is “him”?
2. In Verse 20:
    a. Why do the crowds need to be **persuaded** to ask for Barabbas?
3. In Verses 22 and 25:
    a. Does “all” mean ***literally*** all (i.e. 100%) of the people? (Luke 23:27)
    b. If not, who are they?
4. Did Pilate think Jesus had broken any laws? (v. 23)
    a. If not, why have Jesus flogged and crucified? (v.24) (Mark 15:15)
    b. Why did he wash his hands in front of the people? (v.24)
5. In what sense did the people accept responsibility for Jesus’ death? (v25)

DISCUSS: Throughout history, “Christians" often accused Jews of being particularly responsible for the death of Christ and have persecuted them for this, sometimes quite severely. ***According to the Bible***, how ***should*** we feel and think about this? (John 3:16, 7:7, 15:18; Luke 23:24; Matthew 28:16-20; Romans 3:23, 11)

Prayer

Please pray for one another as the Spirit guides you and, in addition, ask God…

- …to help us understand and apply today’s Bible reading correctly,
- …to make us thankful for all of the blessings he has bestowed on us,
- …most especially our salvation through the atoning sacrifice of Christ, and
- …for helping us to grow spiritually as we constantly seek to imitate Christ.