



LESSON 157 - Mark 15:15

Luke 23:20-25 Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again to them. But they cried, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let him go.

And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed.

And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required. And he released unto them him that for sedition and murder was cast into prison, whom they had desired; but he delivered Jesus to their will.

[Pilate] delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified. (Mk 15:15)

Ending the sixth and final trial, Pilate, kowtowing to the threat of losing his position, delivered Jesus to be crucified. These trials had been a travesty of justice. They were an ugly demonstration of the wickedness and degradation of mankind, ranging from the betrayal from one of Jesus' own, Judas, to the evil religious leaders supposedly dedicated to justice, the honoring the law of Moses, and upholding righteousness, to the mindless crowds gathered in Jerusalem for holy passover who shouted for the release of the murderer Barabbas, to the cruelty and mockery of the temple soldiers and those of Rome, and to the weakness of Pilate.

Yet in the bigger picture, Jesus could not be characterized as a victim or one with no recourse. Strangely enough, Jesus at any time could have asked for deliverance from all of the present and future sufferings He would experience in the coming hours, and He would have received it.

"...Do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?" (Mt 26:53-54) For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end." (Lk 22:37) Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above..." (Jn 19:10-11)

He had the option to choose to be rescued, but Jesus was determined to fulfill His Word to His Father, promises made by the Son before the world began. (1 Peter 1:19-20, Rev 13:8) Therefore, He accepted all that came as a part of the suffering in being the Lamb of God. **I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away. I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. "For the Lord GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed."** (Isa 50:5 b-7)

We have a wonderful, marvelous Savior, like none other person who has lived on this planet. Only He could have done what He did. Only He could have been the perfect Sacrifice. Only He could have given His life and it been acceptable to a holy God. If not for Him...

Take some time to thank and praise Him for His faithfulness, His love, His devotion to His Father's will, and His dedication to finishing the work He was sent here to do.

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