**Bible Class Notes – *Studies on The Lord* Jesus– Lesson 156**

**The Saviour – Sentenced - Notes**

**Today we learn of the Religious Leaders persuading Pilate, the Roman Governor, to condemn the Lord to death, VA’s of Roman Trial, Pilate and People AND to consider our guilt of agreeing with Pilate, the Religious Leaders and the Crowd – Crucify Him.**

Which are we like? VA Question Pilate, The Religious Leaders, The Crowd? The Saviour Sentenced – The Roman Trial. VA Sheets

**The Trial Before Pilate. Events at daybreak on Friday.**

**The Charge, “Treason, Are You the King of the Jews?”**

**The Religious Leaders –** They had just sentenced Jesus to death having found Him guilty of Blasphemy. But they had no power or authority to execute Him. So, a great problem stood in their way.

They continued in their proud, hostile attitude to the Lord. Still seeking to have Him put to death, they brought Him to Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, as a common criminal.

They were afraid of the crowd who had witnessed the Lord’s miracles and wise teachings.

Could they turn the crowd against Him? They came up with a cunning plot - with the false accusation of Treason against Rome, saying that the Lord Jesus wanted to be king and overthrow Roman rule.

They rejected The Lord as being the promised Messiah.

**2**

**Pilate** - Heknew that Jesus was innocent, but was a coward, afraid of losing his job. **VA2 Pilate Coward**

**The Crowd** were easily persuaded and turned against the Lord. Remember, a week ago they were shouting, ***“Hosanna to the Son of David.”* VA3 The People**

**So, we ask, who Was Responsible for Sending The Lord to His death, to be Crucified?**

**The Religious Leaders** – They hated the Lord because He exposed their sin of pride and unbelief. **They brought the charge to Pilate of Treason.**

**Proud, hostile** and hypocritical they stirred up the crowd to shout, ***“Crucify Him, Crucify Him.”*** **VA4 R.Leaders** They wanted to pass the blame for Christ’s sentence onto the crowd, to make them responsible for His death. To put pressure on Pilate so that he was forced to sentence Christ to death by crucifixion.

**Pilate** The Lord was brought before Pontius Pilate, The Roman Governor.

– **Matthew 27v11 VA5**

**And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, ‘Art thou the King of the Jews?’ And Jesus said unto him, ‘Thou sayest’.**

Pilate knew that the Religious Leaders had jealous hatred for the Lord and wanted Him dead.

Pilate asked the Lord more questions but the Lord did not answer, exactly as prophesised by Isaiah.

**3**

**Isaiah 53 v7 VA6**

***He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth.***

Pilate planned to set the Lord free by offering to release a prisoner, but the Religious Leaders stirred up the crowd to call for the release of Barabbas.

Pilate did not listen to his wife’s sound advice, “***Have nothing to do with that just man.”*** **Matthew 27v19**  Afraid of losing his position he cowardly went against his conviction, giving in to the pressure of the Jewish Leaders.

Pilate released Barabbas and handed over the Lord to his soldiers for them to crucify Him.

Pilate tried to publicly ***‘wash his hands of his guilt’***. **Matthew 27v24 VA7 Washing Hands**

**The Jewish Crowd** – stirred up by the proud and hostile Jewish Leaders cried out, ***“Crucify Him, Crucify Him.”***

They followed each other, not stopping to consider the enormity of their action. **They were each personably responsible.**

**Later,** Peter confronted them on the Day of Pentecost - ***“Him* (Christ), *being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”* Acts 2v23**

**VA8**

**4**

***Would we, too, have been ‘ashamed’ of Jesus, joining the crowd in rejecting the Saviour?***

**So Pilate, The Jewish Leaders, and The Crowd were responsible for the Lord’s death. Personally Guilty.**

**Surprisingly, The Lord Went To Calvary Willingly – To Save Sinners. Is not this an amazing thought!**

**It was His Father’s Will. Philippians 2v7-8 VA9** In Gethsemane the Lord hadprayed, saying, ***‘O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt.’*** **Matthew 26v39**

**The Lord dying on the cross was in God’s Plan of Salvation - yet God also held them responsible for it.**

**The Lord allowed Himself** to be arrested, falsely accused; without resistance, mocked, beaten.

At His arrest in Gethsemane He said, ***‘Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels?’*** **Matt 26v53 But He did not.**

**The Lord knew** that dying on the cross would cause Him excruciating physical pain. Imagine, as He hung on the cross in the heat of the day, the nails in His hands and feet, pulling on His body. **It is beyond our imagination**.

**He also knew** that taking the guilt of our sin upon Himself would cause Him great agony of soul, as He would receive His Father’s holy wrath upon Himself; the wrath that, as sinners, we rightly deserve to experience for eternity.

**5**

**The Lord spoke** of, ***‘laying down His life for His sheep.’*** **John 10v11,**

**The Lord gave Himself freely and willingly**, to die for His People; ***‘for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame.’* Hebrews 12v2**

**His Father loved Him John 10v17-18 VA10**

**Humbled, of no reputation VA**

**Paul wrote, *“And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name.” Philippians 2vs8,9***

**“Surely, He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.”**  **Isaiah 53v4**

**Which are we like? VA11 of Maybe**

**Are we responsible for the death of Christ?**

**Sadly, yes.**

You may say, **‘But I was not there. I cannot be held responsible.’**

**Yet,** if we, after hearing the Gospel message refuse to turn to the Lord in sincere repentance and faith, just as the crowd, the Jewish leaders and Pilate refused to, then this shows that we too would have cried **“Crucify Him!”**

**Maybe**, just as the crowd chose Barabbas above Christ, we too have chosen other things above Him?

The Lord should be the most important person in our lives.

**6**

**Do we love Him for dying to save us?**

**Maybe**, like the Jewish Leaders, we proudly reject His teaching that we are all sinners, deserving God’s holy wrath?

What do you think when your teacher or Pastor reminds you that in God’s holy eye you are a guilty sinner?

***“If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.” 1 John1v10***

**Maybe**, like Pilate, we go against our conviction that Christ is God because we are more concerned of our friend’s opinion of us, excusing our cowardice by trying to live a moral life, but not willing to stand out and put the Lord first?

We attend Church and College Class but are not moved when we hear of the Lord dying for sinners to save them.

**Pilate ‘washed his hands’. VA of washing hands**

**Could this remove his guilt and make him right with God? This was not true repentance.**

**We need to accept our guilt and bow in repentance at the foot of the cross.**

**We must seriously consider these things. Find a quiet place to pray and give thanks to the Lord for the great love that He showed when He died to take the punishment for our sin. Do you believe He died to save you? Have you repented?**

**Come to Him now in humility, in repentance and faith and know the joy and blessing of His forgiveness.**

**Are you ready to meet the Lord on Judgement Day.**