

ANALYSIS:

1. What accusations did the Jews bring against Jesus before Pilate?

2. Why was Herod glad to see Jesus? _____
3. For what crimes was Barabbas in prison? _____
4. Although Pilate judged Jesus to be innocent (vs 4, 14-16, 20, 22), why did he sentence Jesus to be crucified? _____
5. How many of Jesus' sayings from the cross are in this chapter? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Jesus' words at His crucifixion are sometimes referred to as the "seven sayings of the cross." [1]"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Lu 23:34). Jesus was making forgiveness for you and me possible. [2]"Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Lu 23:43). The sure promise of eternal salvation to one repenting robber. [3]"Woman, behold thy son! Behold thy mother!" (Jo 19:26-27). Jesus provided a home for his mother, his last earthly act. [4]"My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mt 27:46). Spoken out of darkness symbolizing the Father's withdrawal as the Son experienced the pains of hell to keep us from that place. [5]"I thirst" (Jo 19:28). He tasted hell for his elect (Lu 16:24). [6]"It is finished" (Jo 19:30). The triumphal cry of the Victor over sin and hell! [7]"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Lu 23:46). He had completed the Father's will by saving His people, now He was coming home. The Father announced His approval by an earthquake, rending the veil in the temple, raising saints from the graves and restoring the light from the sun! Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Are you tempted by some sin, perplexed by circumstances, a bit discouraged, fearful of some outcome or battling pride? Let us join Paul as he testifies, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world" (Gal 6:14). Let us read often, meditate frequently and sing reverently of the cross and the victory our Lord accomplished for us there. Without a doubt there is no safer place while we are still in this world.

HELP:

1. Jesus has been perverting the nation, forbidding paying of tribute to Caesar, claiming to be Christ the King, stirring up the people (vs 2, 5).
2. Herod had desired a long time to see Jesus, because of what he had heard, and he was hoping to see miracle (v 8).
3. Seditious in the city and murder (vs 19, 25).
4. The Jews were instant with loud voices that he be crucified, and Pilate gave in to them (v 23).
5. Three. [1] Father, forgive them for they know not what they do (v 34), [2] Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise (v 43), [3] Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit (v 46).