

THE CROSS OF CHRIST 2

Why Did Christ Die? Matt 27 vs. 11-26.

1. While Pilate had Jesus in custody, he has several opportunities to let him go free. What are those occasions and what does Pilate decided at each point?
2. Based on what you read here how would you describe Pilate's character?
3. What fear does Pilate display?
4. Pilate asks 'what shall I do then, with Jesus who is called the Christ?' v 22. How do his attempts to avoid responsibility in Jesus trial parallel ways that people try to avoid submitting to Christ as Lord?
5. Pilate detects envy as the true motivation for the Jewish leaders hostility to Jesus v 18. What reason might they be envious of Jesus?
6. What is Pilate trying to accomplish by his display of washing his hands v 24?
7. In v 25 Matthew writes that 'all the people' said to Pilate 'let his blood be on us and on our children'. What do you think made them respond so forcefully here, when it seems they were undecided about Jesus just minutes before v 20?
8. Although Jesus is brought to his death by human sins, he does not die as a martyr. On the contrary he goes to the cross voluntarily, even deliberately. In what sense has all of humanity done what the crowd did in demanding that Jesus be crucified and in what Pilate did in actually handing Jesus over to be crucified?
9. Before we can see the cross as something that is done for us (leading us to faith and worship), we need to see it as something done by us (leading us to repentance). How do you respond to the idea that Jesus crucifixion was done by us as well as for us?
10. How do you respond to the idea that Jesus crucifixion was done by you personally as well as for you personally?