

FINAL STUDY NOTES - *LUKE Chapter 23 v 1-38* 6/16-17/2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

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Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 436 2866 US (New York). Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzlrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, suggest using *WAZE* (waze.com/live-map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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OPENING PRAYER

LUKE – Chapter 23 v 1-38: Jesus Handed Over to Pontius Pilate – (vs. 1-5). Jesus Faces Herod - (vs. 6-12); Taking the Place of Barabbas – (vs. 13-25); The King on a Cross – (vs. 26-38). The Thief on the Cross; (vs. 40-43); Jesus Dies on the Cross – (vs. 44-49); Jesus Buried in Joseph's Tomb – (vs. 50-56).

Review: (Luk 22:70-71) Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "You rightly say that I am." [71] And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

Jesus Before Pilate

Luk 23:1-2 Then (in the morning) the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate. [2] And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation (false), and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar (false), saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."

- **No, the first two charges are wrong!** It is true that He was correcting the religious abuses that were going on. He had cleansed the temple from its merchandising. He sought to return it to a house of prayer for all people. But He was not perverting the nation. He was setting things right that had been wrong.
- **They accused Him of forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar.** Again, this is a false accusation. They sought earlier to trap Jesus. (*Luk 20:22-25*) *Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?* [23] *But He perceived their craftiness, and said to them, "Why do you test Me? [24] Show Me a denarius. Whose image and inscription does it have?" They answered and said, "Caesar's." [25] And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."* It is a false accusation when they said that He was forbidding the people to pay their taxes to Caesar.
- **The third accusation was that He was saying that He Himself is Christ, a King!** This is something that Jesus did assert!

Luk 23:3-4 Then Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered him and said, "It is as you say." [4] So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man."

- It was at this point, that Pilate, seeing and proclaiming, "I find no fault in this man," in accordance with Roman law should have said, therefore I will not consider your complaint any further! Case closed!
- **This is an important illustration for us!** As soon as we are convicted by the Spirit of a truth in any manipulation, we should immediately move to correct and end the manipulation. This would have been Pilate's easiest place and time to end their wrongful plan to get Rome to sentence Jesus to death. There will be subsequent occasions for Pilate to end and dismiss the case, but each will become increasingly more difficult.
- **So, with us, as soon as we are convicted of a sin, we should end it! If we do not repent, confess, and turn away from it completely, it will become increasingly more difficult, ultimately impossible to turn away from!**

Luk 23:5 But they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place."

- Now they are making further charges. Charges that Jesus was stirring up the people. That again was a false charge. Jesus was not stirring up the people.
- They said that He was *teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place.* That is correct.

Jesus Before Herod

Luk 23:6 When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean.

- **When Pilate heard the word Galilee,** he realized that Galilee was out of his jurisdiction. That was Herod's area of rule. He was a descendant of Herod the great and he ruled in the area of Galilee. Jesus never went to Tiberias. Though He traveled much around the Galilee region, He always avoided Tiberias, that's where Herod reigned. Jesus had nothing to say to Herod, because of his putting John the Baptist to death.
- **Yes, Jesus was a Galilean.** He was born in Bethlehem, but He grew up in Nazareth and spent most of His ministry around the Galilee region.

***Luk 23:7 And as soon as he (Pilate) knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time* (because of the Feast of the Passover).**

- We can see that already Pilate, in not ending the case, is sensing more trouble, so he does what we so have a tendency to do. That is to pass it on, or shift the blame to someone else!
- **Pilate sent Him to Herod. When was the last time I shifted the blame or rationalized my guilt by attempting to minimize my sin by passing it on to someone else?**

Luk 23:8-9 Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle (like a sideshow) done by Him. [9] Then he questioned Him with many words, but He (Jesus) answered him nothing.

- **Jesus would not speak to Herod.** He had nothing to say. This was the third trial.
- **Jesus makes no attempt to reach Herod! He had gone too far!** When a man has gone so far into sin and in debauchery where the Lord has nothing to say to him, indeed, that man is in bad shape! It is like sometimes in the life of an unbeliever, the Lord gives testimony after testimony after testimony and when that person refuses to act on the amount of light that has been given to them. Then God graciously does not give them any more light because then they are accountable for more!

Luk 23:10-12 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. [11] Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous (gaudily decorated) robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. [12] That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other (the enemy of my enemy is my friend.)

Luk 23:13-15 Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, [14] said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him (the second time Pilate says, "found no fault in Him); [15] no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him.

Luk 23:16-17 I will therefore chastise (beat, not scourge) Him and release Him" [17] (for it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast).

- **Release Him....necessary....to release one to them at the feast.** Here at the feast, Pilate tries to compromise. He is going to try to appease them. I have to get along with the Jewish leaders. How can I get out of this? He remembered at the time of the Passover, it was the custom of the Roman governor to release whatever prisoner of the Jews that Rome had, in order to build good will. He thinks this is the way out. I am going to give them the choice between Jesus and a notorious criminal, by the name of Barabbas, a murderer, a robber, and an insurrectionist. Here is the attempt to compromise in the middle of this situation. Notice, it is impossible to appease an unyielding enemy!
- **Pilate begins to compromise.** There was no greater jurisprudence system than the Romans had. Their system of justice was unyielding, and if you pronounce, "I find no fault in someone," you had no right to chastise him. He was to be let go! Pilate is now compromising. He wants Jesus off of his hands, without the people to cause an uproar because Tiberius is already examining him. He is caught in a political quagmire, so he is going to try to prevent a disturbance by making the people happy.
- **Pilate is trying to get Jesus off of his hands.** It is important to notice that you cannot be neutral when it comes to Jesus Christ. Pilate will say "I will wash my hands of this" before it is over. But the one person that has been referred to as the one most responsible for the lawless and wrongful trials and persecution of Jesus was Pontius Pilate.
- **The second thing to recognize is that the Lord will never let you keep what you have gained through wrongful compromise.** It is thought by many that, within 10 years, Pilate was sent by the governor of Syria, back to Rome for cruelty. By the time he gets there, Tiberius has died. Caligula is Caesar, who banishes him to Gaul and Pilate dies near Lucerne.

Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified

Luk 23:18-19 And they all cried out at once, saying, "Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas"— [19] who had been thrown into prison for a certain rebellion made in the city, and for murder.

- **Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"** Figuring that the people would surely say, do not set Barabbas free in our society again. That guy is dangerous killer.
- **Barabbas or Jesus? Release to us Barabbas! Notice the choice! Who are you choosing? Barabbas, standing for death. Or Jesus, who stands for life. Think of all those around us today, desperately in need of prayer, who are still choosing Barabbas over Jesus! (Luk 11:23) He who is not with Me is against Me.**
- **This is almost unthinkable!** Here is a man, Barabbas, who was guilty of sedition and in the uprising, had committed murder. The people are asking for his release rather than Jesus.' What had Jesus done? The witness concerning Jesus says He went around doing good, healing all manner of illnesses.

- **It is interesting to me today how that people seem to be opposed to those that desire to do good.** They seek to ridicule and bring down those who are trying to do something beneficial. How that they love to exalt evil?

Luk 23:20 Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them.

- **Here they were wanting Barabbas instead of Jesus!** There is a total breakdown of justice here. The judge is arguing with the people!
- **Justice has broken down when the judge is arguing with the people over the issues,** which really were not issues. The people, led by the Jewish religious leaders, were determined to see an innocent man put to death.
- **There was just enough Roman justice that Pilate was recoiling against this.** This was going against his conscience. He was convinced of the innocence of Jesus. Yet, they were forcing him to do something that was a violation of his own sense of justice and right.
- **In (Act 3:13) The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go.** Peter affirms that Pilate was determined to let Jesus go.

Luk 23:21 But they shouted, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

- **Notice this unusual, nearly insane scene! Here is a ruthless Roman governor trying to win the life of a completely innocent, miracle-working Jewish teacher against the riotous efforts of both the Jewish leaders and the crowd.** Pilate must have seen that the situation was becoming increasingly ugly.

Luk 23:22 Then he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise (have Jesus scourged – (Isa 53:5d) by His stripes we are healed! Him and let Him go."

- **But the crowd, led by the religious leaders, insisted on His death.** So "Pilate the third time said, What evil has He done....I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go. The suggestion of chastising was not just. Had Jesus been a Roman citizen, they could not have chastised Him.
- **Remember when Paul, in Jerusalem mentioned how the Lord called him to go to the Gentiles** and that created a whole new uproar, the Jews began to throw dirt in the air, they began to scream out, Kill him. And they began to rush towards the fortress. (Act 22:24-26) the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, and said that he should be examined under scourging, so that he might know why they shouted so against him. [25] And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?" [26] When the centurion heard that, he went and told the commander, saying, "Take care what you do, for this man is a Roman." Had Jesus been a Roman citizen, it would have been unlawful to chastise Him without accusations being proven against Him.
- **Pilate, in suggesting chastising, was making a very serious compromise with justice.** The purpose of chastisement was to elicit confessions from the prisoners.
- **But it was only the beginning of the injustices;** for His crucifixion was the greatest miscarriage of justice in the history of the world. Nothing compares with the injustice of man that was demonstrated in the death of Jesus Christ. Pilate, in suggesting that he would chastise Him and let Him go, was violating Roman justice.

Luk 23:23 But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed.

- **This is one of the most tragic verses of scripture!** And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed! They won. Not because their cause was just. Not because their cause was right. But because of their loud insistence, their voices prevailed!
- **How often the crowd's pressure is more than we can handle.** The peer pressure or the pressure of the group. Many people have gotten into bad situations because they did not have the strength to stand up against the pressure of the crowd. It is a horrible thing, crowd pressure! Unfortunately, people so often foolishly listen to the crowd rather than to the voice of God's Spirit that is speaking to their heart.
- **Here the crowd prevailed!** Pilate had said, "Why, what evil has he done? But they just cried all the more! Let Him be crucified."
- **There is a great lesson for us here! As soon as Pilate realized that Jesus was innocent, he should have stopped the whole accusative procedure,** saying there is no legitimate case here! This court is adjourned! Get out of here! But he sought to appease the opposition. The further down the road he went the greater the

traction and the boldness of the enemy, who were getting a foothold.

- **The voices of these men and the chief priests prevailed!** Pilate had opportunities in verses 4 & 22 to release Jesus, and he did not! We now see the tragic consequences resulting from Pilate's continual failure to end this case!
- **May we notice this!** As soon as we realize the conviction of the Holy Spirit in warning us that "this is wrong!" **We should stop right then! Go no further!** The sooner we stop the better! The further we go down the wrong road, the more difficult it is to stop! **Pilate** should have shut the door that second, because as he keeps that door open, the longer it goes, the harder it is, then, for him to stop what is happening!
- **The same is true in your life and my life, right now! Is there something you are getting pulled into and you know it is wrong? You think it might be easier to say no, further down the road, but not so! It will only be harder then, to stop what is happening! The moment we know that it wrong is the moment to act decisively! Pilate made this big mistake! May none of us make that mistake, right now, in whatever we are facing!**

Luk 23:24 So Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they requested.

- Not as he knew to be just, but as they requested! Pilate had gone too far. At this point he realizes that the mob will not be satisfied by anything short of seeing Jesus crucified!

Luk 23:25 And he released to them the one (Barabbas) they requested, who for rebellion and murder had been thrown into prison; but he delivered Jesus to their will.

- **It was not Pilates' will. He delivered Jesus to their will.** There is no question at all but that the responsibility is being placed directly upon the religious leaders. Pilate, representing the Roman government and the Roman law, was desiring to release Jesus because that was just. It was they who were requiring His crucifixion.
- **We read in (Mat 27:24-25) When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." [25] And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."** What a horrible crime.
- **If you read Josephus' *The Wars of the Jews*, chapter seven,** you will read the horrible consequences of their crime. "His blood be upon us, and our children."
- **Barabbas or Jesus? What a contrast! Life or death?** Jesus represents life. Barabbas represents death! Jesus who went around doing good, healing all manner of sicknesses, preaching a gospel of love, kindness, compassion, forgiveness, all marks of Jesus, raising those that are dead, and the people are asked their choice. Do you want a man who takes others' lives or a man who gives life? And the people made that horrible choice. Barabbas, release unto us Barabbas.
- **We should not be too quick to judge them!** Today God gives man a choice, a choice between life and death! Many people are choosing the path that leads to death, rather than the path of life in Jesus Christ. If you are quick to judge Adam and to judge that crowd that were saying release unto Barabbas, unless you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are with that crowd! You are following their same pattern. You are choosing death over life. Who have you chosen or who are you choosing? How about others around you?

The Crucifixion

Luk 23:26-28 Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross (likely the cross bar) that he might bear it after Jesus.

- **There is some reason to believe that Simon came to know what it meant to take up his cross and follow Jesus. (Mar 15:21) Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross.** Later we see Simon's sons were apparently well known in the church as Paul refers in (Rom 16:13) Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

Luk 23:27 And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. [28] But Jesus, turning to them, said (This is His very last message to the people before His crucifixion), "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." (just mentioned in verse 25)

- **Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me.** Jesus realizes they are weeping because of the injustice and cruelty being given to Him, but He is saying to them, not to weep for Me for that reason because He had come into the world in order to do this very thing! That because of man's sin, He, the Son of God had come out of glory into this world of time to give His life that sinful man might be justified and saved!
- **It was the whole object of His Incarnation, fulfilling God's great plan of salvation!** It is His death upon the cross that glorifies God as nothing else has done or can be done, reconciling men to God and delivering them from this bondage and the slavery of Satan and of sin and of hell. It is the way in which He sets the captives free! That is why He tells the women not to weep for Him!
- **How prophetic are these words of Jesus!** Do not weep for Me, *weep for yourselves and weep for your children.* Near-term fulfillment: At the time of the Roman siege and destruction of Jerusalem in 69-70A.D. the tragedy and horrific conditions was so remarkably seen! The awful events, the anarchy, leading up to the destruction of Jerusalem under Titus. Far term fulfilment: During the Great Tribulation, as well as for anytime an unbeliever dies unsaved!

Luk 23:29-31 *For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!' [30] Then they will begin 'TO SAY TO THE MOUNTAINS, "FALL ON US!" AND TO THE HILLS, "COVER US!" [31] For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?"*

- **In other words, these are good times.** If they do these in the good times, what are they going to do when things really get bad? (*Hos 10:8c*) *They shall say to the mountains, "Cover us!" And to the hills, "Fall on us!"* (*Rev 6:16-17*) and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! [17] For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (*Rev 9:6*) *In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. What a warning to unbelievers!*
- **As Jesus tell the Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children! Isn't Jesus is saying the same thing now with regard to all unbelievers - For indeed the days are coming...when these things will be done in the dry! What terrible things are eternally ahead for those who perish in their sin, rejecting Jesus' coming to fulfill God's plan of salvation.**

Luk 23:32 *There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death.*

- Matthew tells us that as they were being nailed to the crosses, they railed on Jesus with the crowd. (*Mat 27:44*) *Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing.*

Luk 23:33 *And when they had come to the place called Calvary (Golgotha, place of the skull), there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.*

- **Prophecy being fulfilled.** (*Isa 53:12c*) *And He was numbered with the transgressors.* Jesus was crucified between the two criminals, as if He had been the worst of the three. He was not only treated as a transgressor, but numbered with them, as the worst of them.

Luk 23:34 *Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.*

- **When? When they had come to Calvary** and they started to nail Him to the cross. As they were driving the spikes through His hands, then Jesus said:
- **Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they do.** Here Jesus is practicing what He preached. He said (*Mat 5:44*) *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.* They knew what they were doing but they did not know the enormity of what they were doing.
- **So many prophecies being fulfilled! Here are a few that were being fulfilled:**
 - ✓ **He said nothing to Herod;** (*Isa 53:7*) *He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter; And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.*
 - ✓ **Pilate said, I will therefore chastise Him and release Him;** (*Isa 53:5*) *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*

- ✓ The two criminals, one on the right and one on the left; (*Isa 53:12*) Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many,
- ✓ His prayer, Father, forgive them; they know not what they do: (*Isa 53:12f*) And made intercession for the transgressors.
- ✓ They divided His garment and cast lots. (*Psa 22:18*) They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.

- **Can you think of another verse that impacts you more than that of Jesus praying? "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." How is my life affected by that prayer? How was the life of the thief on the cross changed?**

Luk 23:35 And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."

- The mocking and the derision! And the people stood looking on. (*Psa 22:7-8*) All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, [8] "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"

Luk 23:36 The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine,

- (*Psa 69:21*) They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. This was an act of mercy. The vinegar was mixed with myrrh and as such was more or less a weak anesthesia. It was to ease the pain. Because there is nothing more painful than crucifixion.
- It was one of the most torturous execution methods ever devised by man! Your body hanging there on the cross. As time goes on, the muscles begin to give way, causing an excruciating pain as the body falls out of joint. Then finally, death comes by suffocation. You have to lift yourself up on the spike that is holding your feet to get a breath. But of course, as you do, you are painfully ripping your feet! So, you would hold on and only breathe when you had to and then you would lift yourself, take a breath and then, but the excruciating pain. It was just extremely torturous thing.
- The vinegar was more or less to help ease the pain. However, Jesus refused it. But later on, when He cried, "I thirst;" they at this point gave Him the vinegar and because it was all over, He took it just before He died. (*Psa 22:15b*) And My tongue clings to My jaws. He was then able to cry out, "It is finished!"

Luk 23:37 and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself."

- Earlier in verse 35, His accusers said, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God." Yet it was precisely because He did not save Himself that He can save others! It could be correctly said that His love kept Him (Jesus) on the cross, not the nails!

Luk 23:38 And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

- That was there as Pilate's retaliation against the Jews. He knew how deep their animosity was against Jesus and against the claim of Jesus as being the Messiah. He is in a sense getting even with them, He knew that putting "This is the King of the Jews," would antagonize them. He was angry with them because they had forced him to violate his own conscience. They had forced the issue, and he did not appreciate it. He succumbed but still he wanted to get in his last little dig. So, this sign above the cross was Pilate's revenge against the Jews. Just to gall them.
- John, an eyewitness wrote (*Joh 19:19-20*) Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: **JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.** [20] Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew (to the Jews), Greek (the common language), and Latin (merging major legal language).
- John tells us they came to Pilate, and they were angry. (*Joh 19:21,22*) Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'" [22] Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." Pilate said, and I am sure with a sneer said, "What I have written!" You are not going to push this one on me. I have got the last push!
- Some scholars believe that anger of the chief priests was of what Pilate's epitaph looked like in Hebrew. Reading right to left, the first word is the word Yeshua. We recognize that Hanani Sarai the Nazarene. The Malek and the King Yehudim the Jews, and so this is Jesus the Nazarene, the king of the Jews.

- We may not recognize what the first letter in each term is, but in Hebrew, reading right to left, the Jewish leaders apparently saw it as an acrostic of this, taking the 1st letter of each of those 4 words and you get the Tetragrammaton - YHVH, the unpronounceable name of God! The inscription is saying this is God on the cross! Wow!
- What do we see?
- *When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood. Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all. Thou hast my soul, my life my all!*

SUMMARY

- **So, with us, as soon as we are convicted of a sin, we should end it! If we do not repent,** confess, and turn away from it completely, it will become increasingly more difficult, ultimately impossible to turn away from! (Luke 23:4)
- **Pilate sent Him to Herod. When was the last time I shifted the blame** or rationalized my guilt by attempting to minimize my sin by passing it on to someone else? (Luke 23:7)
- **Barabbas or Jesus? Release to us Barabbas! Notice the choice! Who are you choosing?** Barabbas, standing for death. Or Jesus, who stands for life. Think of all those around us today, desperately in need of prayer, who are still choosing Barabbas over Jesus! (Luk 11:23) He who is not with Me is against Me. (Luke 23:19)
- **The same is true in your life and my life, right now! Is there something** you are getting pulled into and you know it is wrong? You think it might be easier to say no, further down the road, but not so! It will only be harder then, to stop what is happening! The moment we know that it wrong is the moment to act decisively! Pilate made this big mistake! May none of us make that mistake, right now, in whatever we are facing! (Luke 23:23)
- **As Jesus tell the Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children!** Isn't Jesus is saying the same thing now with regard to all unbelievers - For indeed the days are coming...when these things will be done in the dry! What terrible things are eternally ahead for those who perish in their sin, rejecting Jesus' coming to fulfill God's plan of salvation. (Luke 23:31)
- **Can you think of another verse that impacts you more than that of Jesus praying?** "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." How is my life affected by that prayer? How was the life of the thief on the cross changed? (Luke 23:34)

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS – Isaac Watts 1674-1748 (1707) – (3:00)

1. *When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.*
2. *Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.*
3. *Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all. Thou hast my soul, my life my all!*

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Continue to study *Luke Chapter 23, The Thief on the Cross*; (vs. 40-43); *Jesus Dies on the Cross* – (vs. 44-49); *Jesus Buried in Joseph's Tomb* – (vs. 50-56).