

“The Unthinkable”

New Hope Community Church

March 27th, 2022 / Luke 23:13-31

A. Exploring the Depths of Depravity (13-25)

1. In Pilate, the man responsible to administer justice
 - He chose to ignore the absence of any guilt in Jesus
 - He exalted evil above righteousness
 - He caved into the idolatry of serving self
 - He refused to embrace truth even in contrast to lies
 - He turned a deaf ear to conscience
 - He denied responsibility for his own evil heart
2. In the religious leaders, those responsible to welcome Messiah
 - They had no interest in justice
 - They were willing to embrace evil over righteousness
 - They betrayed their children in the passion of their evil desires

B. Realizing the Consequences of Depravity (26-31)

1. The judgment for rejecting Messiah would be **horrific**
 - In that day you will think yourself blessed to be childless
 - In that day you will long to escape by a quick death
2. Roman **contempt** for Jewish lives will be unimaginable
 - The green tree represents Jesus, Messiah, the source of life
 - The dry tree represents a spiritually dry Israel, without life

Personal Reflection

- All of mankind is depraved, morally corrupt. We are no different than Pilate nor the Jewish religious leaders!
- 1) We have all sinned and **rebelled** against God
 - ‘All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way’ (Is 53:6) ‘By nature we are children of wrath’ (Eph 2:3)
 - 2) God in His mercy has provided His Son to **take** our punishment
 - ‘The LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him’ (Is 53:6)
 - ‘He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities’ (Is 53:5)
 - 3) To reject God's salvation is to **ignore** the truth like Pilate.
 - ‘Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”’ (Jn 14:6)
- The consequences of our depravity either fall on Jesus or they will fall on us **Revelation 20:11-15**

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Life Group Discussion Questions

Week of March 27, 2022

Read Luke 23:13-31 together.

1. Discuss the depravity of the Roman authorities as exemplified by Pontius Pilate ?
2. Discuss the depravity of the Jewish religious leaders in their rejection of Jesus as the Messiah of Israel and the Son of the Living God ?
3. Since the Bible declares that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God"; describe how we are each like Pilate or the Pharisees ?

How can we pray for you this week?