

JOHN 18:39-19:16a

CHRIST OR THE CROWD

THE PRESSURE + PERSISTENCE OF THE CROWD

- Read John 18:39-40 along with Luke 23:13-25. What do you notice about the crowd? Why were they so persistent?
- The Scripture says Pilate knew the Jews were delivering Jesus to be crucified out of envy (Matthew 27:18), but what was the main charge they were placing against Jesus (see John 19:7)?
- Why, in the end, did the crowd's voices prevail, and why must Christians never follow the crowd over Christ (Luke 14:25-33)?

THE COMPROMISE + COWARDICE OF PILATE

- Read John 19:1-7. Pilate reveals himself to be a weak leader through his decision-making. Why was he afraid and why did he ultimately deliver Jesus to be crucified?
- What does it mean that Jesus was flogged and what was the significance of the crown of thorns and purple robe being placed on Jesus?
- In John 19:5, Pilate declares "Behold the man!" What did Pilate mean by this?
- At times, all Christians will be tempted to compromise out of fear. How can Christians better prepare for persecution, pressure, etc. as they seek to follow Jesus?

THE POISE + POWER OF CHRIST

- Read John 19:8-16a. Talk about the contrast between what Pilate says in verse 10 compared to what Jesus says in verse 11.
- In vv. 12-16, it appears Pilate sought to release Jesus, but according to Matthew 27:24-26, he finally caved and sought to wash his hands of responsibility. How/why was Pilate still guilty for his actions, yet Jesus still operating under sovereign control?
- In the song, How Deep the Father's Love for Us, there is a verse that says,

*"Behold the man upon a cross, My sin upon His shoulders; ashamed,
I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that
held Him there until it was accomplished; His dying breath has brought
me life, I know that it is finished."*

As much as we hate to admit it, if we were present in the crowd, we would have shouted, "Crucify Him." How does knowing that Jesus died for you, even though you rebelled against Him, change your life?

that you may believe