

June 14

## ***By Envy and Crowd-Pleasing, Jesus is Delivered to Death***

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I gave my back to the strikers, and my cheeks to those who plucked off the hair; I didn't hide my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord Yahweh will help me; therefore...have I set my face like a flint – Isaiah 50:6-7

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[Matthew 27:15-26, Pilate's palace home, Thursday] Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release to the multitude one prisoner, whom they desired. They had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas, a robber, thrown into prison with those who had made insurrection, men who in the insurrection had committed murder. When therefore they were gathered together, the multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do as he always did for them. Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? The King of the Jews, who is called Christ?" For he knew that because of envy they, chief priests, had delivered him up.

While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

*Pilate called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought this man to me as one that perverts the people, and see, I have examined him before you, and found no basis for a charge against this man concerning those things of which you accuse him. Neither has Herod, for I sent you to him, and see, nothing worthy of death has been done by him. I will therefore chastise him and release him."*

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the multitudes to ask for

Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. But the governor answered them, "Which of the two, Barabbas or Jesus, do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!"

Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do to Jesus, who is called Christ, whom you call the King of the Jews?"

They all together said to him, "Away with this man! Let him be crucified! Release to us Barabbas!"

But the governor said, "Why? What evil has he done?"

But they cried out exceedingly, saying, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate, wishing to please the multitude, saw that nothing was being gained, but rather that a disturbance was starting, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this righteous person. You see to it."

All the people answered, "May his blood be on us, and on our children!"

Then he released to them Barabbas whom they asked, but Jesus he flogged and delivered up to their will to be crucified. [Mark 15:6-15, Luke 18:35-43, John 18:38-40]

1. Why do Pilate and the priests deliver Jesus? Ultimately, who causes Jesus' death? Why?
2. Are you envious? Of whom? Why? Are you a man-pleaser? When? How can you stop?
3. Jesus, you set your face like flint to suffer everything for me; the least I can do today is to...