To Seek and to Save #8 “Why?” Luke 23: 1-25

**Intro**: Pearl turned three this past week --- “Why Granddad, Why?”

* Outside, water flowers, need water, grow, pretty, ***so we will say Hallelujah!***

(**hint**: The is always the ultimate Reason, Why!)

* Kids learn early to ask Why; Why is an important Question!

**t/s** – Before Luke Tells the story of the Crucifixion of Jesus, He wants us to think about the question, ***Why?*** Why is Jesus on the cross? He answers that question by telling the story of His Trial before Pilate.

Read **Luke 23: 1-25** with Comments

Vs. 2 One charge = *Misleading our nation* (inciting rebellion)

 Two examples – taxes and Christ, a King

VS. 3 A strong positive reply… Yes.

Vs. 7 Pilate was attempting to pass the Buck… wash his hands.

Vs. 10 “*Vehemently*” = a steady crescendo of emotions (mob)

“***I will be handed over to the gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon and scourged, and they will kill Me***.”

Vs. 13 Pilate includes “*the people*” thinking He can gain sympathy

VS. 14 Second time Pilate declares Jesus Not Guilty

Vs. 16 To punish is to flog… terrible beating of a Not Guilty Man.

 (Pilate is beginning to compromise justice)

Vs. 21 First time “*Crucify*” actually directly mentioned

Vs. 22 What **Evil** has this man done… beyond the Legal to character.

**T/S** – All Four Gospels tell this story of Jesus, Pilate and Barabbas. It is important because it prepares us for the Cross by addressing the question of ***Why***.

Notice Two important themes here: **Innocence and Substitution**.

**The Innocence of Jesus**

**Exp** – If you want to know why Jesus died on the cross, it is NOT

 Because He is Guilty. Herod finds no Guilt; and Pilate

 Declares three times… I Find No Guilt in this man (formal).

**ILL** - The Innocence Project was founded in 1992 has led to the freeing of 343 wrongfully convicted people based on DNA, including 20 who spent time on death row.

* Here the Judge declares Innocent before conviction!

**App** – Luke’s ***Political Motive***… Christians not Seditious; not followers of a man who was guilty of “*Misleading the people*”

**t/s** – But more than political Motive…

***Theological*** Nothing lacking in this man… no Evil at all. (vs. 22)

The innocence of Jesus prepares us for the second theme.

**The Substitution of Jesus for Barabbas**

Exp – Jesus is the only one in this story who is Not Guilty.

 Pilate lacks the courage of convictions, weak self-preservation

 Priests and Scribes are jealous, angry, manipulative

 Herod is Guilty, utterly corrupt

 Crowds of People out of control, unreasonable, blood-thirsty

***Barabbas is the most Guilty of all*** (vs. 19 and vs. 25)

* Insurrection and Murder… Guilty, convicted.

“***Release***” to contrast Jesus & Barabbas (17, 18, 20, 22, 25)

 The guilty man is Release and the Innocent man Crucified.

 **Vs. 25 –** Read Again

 ***Jesus, not guilty, died on the Cross of Barabbas, Guilty***

**ILL** – J C Ryle (Rial) Bishop of Liverpool,

*The whole transaction is a lively emblem of the wondrous exchange that takes place between Christ and the sinner… Let us cling firmly to the glorious truth that a sinless Savior has suffered in our stead; and that believing in Him the guilty may go free.*

 ***‘Tis finished! The Messiah dies, cut off for sins, but not His own.***

**App** - Innocent Jesus is Crucified Instead of Guilty Barabbas & Me!

**t/s** – This brings us back to our Question, ***WHY?***

**Why is Jesus Hanging on that Cross?**

**He is Taking My Place. He is My Substitute, and Yours.**

**Hear the Word of the Lord:**

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us*

*For Christ also died for our sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God.*

*Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!*

**Application:**

1. You can only be saved by His Work on the Cross (sinner)
2. You can Live with Blessed Assurance.
3. We Live and Breath to Praise the Name of Jesus!

**ILL** – Pearl’s questions Why? --- Ultimately, so we will say, ON Cross (My sins); Why for My sins (Helpless);

Why Intervene (His Love); Why, Why Why --- **Hallelujah**!

 **Was it for crimes that I had done He groaned upon the tree?**

 **Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!**