

March 10, 2019

## Matthew 27:11-14

### The Preeminent of Christ

- Here standing before Pilate is the Preeminent Creator and Sustainer of all creation (**Col. 1:15-20**).
  - The image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15)
  - Who upholds the universe by the word of his power (Heb. 1:3)
  - Who has overcome all the temptations of Satan by submitting to the will of God (Matt. 4:1-10)
  - Who stilled the storms (Luke 8:24) with a Word and cast out demons (Mark 1:25)
  - Who raised the dead (John 11:43)
  - The mighty Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14) who has come to establish the Kingdom of God
  - The Judge of heaven and earth, who will now stand before the judgment seat of Imperial Rome, to be judged and sentenced to death by sinful men.

- The Lord of Life who willingly surrenders himself to death for the life of his people.

## **What was Really Going On?**

- Jesus, the Beloved Son of the Father, had come to restore His people to fellowship with the Father by presenting Himself unto death as the means of that fellowship.
- How?
  - He had come to destroy the destroyer and all his works.
  - He had come to overthrow the god of this world.
  - He had come to reclaim his crown, his rule, so that he would be the head of a new and regenerated humanity constituted by and in God's love.
- Why was this necessary?
  - God's people had been held in captivity by Satan to do his will (2 Tim. 2:26) becoming Satan's slaves of sin (Rom. 6:17).
  - This was the result of Adam's willful decision to embrace disobedience to become embraced by death.
  - God sent his Son to free his people from the curse of death by embracing the death that had embraced them.

- This cosmic contest comes to its peak as Jesus willingly and purposefully presents himself to be judged by Pilate.
- Behind this judgment stood Stan who believed that this will be his finest hour.
- Now Satan will gladly inflict the sentence of death upon the Prince of Life.
- If anything characterized the ministry of Jesus, it was his power:

**Luke 4:14** *And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit...*

**Luke 5:17** *And the power of the Lord was with him to heal...*

**Matt 12:28** *...I drive out demons by the [power of the] Spirit of God...*

- Surely now Jesus will once again exercise his power to prevent his death...
- Jesus will exercise his power in a counterintuitive way.
- Jesus will now do what Satan could not conceive (1 Cor. 2:8).
- Having the authority to do otherwise, Jesus chose to embrace the curse of death (Gal. 3:13):

**Phil 2:6-8** *...although [Christ] was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross...*

- This is the unique power of the love of God.

- What power do we see being exercised by Jesus before Pilate?
  - The power of God's love in the humble submission of Jesus, that will destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

**2 Cor 10:3-4** *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.*

**2 Cor 12:9** *My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness...*