

CHAPTER TWO

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GOD'S WISDOM IS THE WISDOM OF THE CROSS.

(Contains the revelations of Mary of Agreda.)

Part 3 "Jesus brought before Pilate".

Jesus Interrogated by Pilate.

Jesus arrived at the house of Pilate, followed by a large crowd of people. The Jews, wishing to preserve themselves as clean before the law as possible for the Passover, excused themselves before Pilate, for they refused to enter his palace. As hypocrites they paid no attention to their own uncleanness, becoming the murderers of an innocent Man.

Jn 18:28 Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. (The residence of Pilate.) It was morning. And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover.

Mk 15:1 ... They bound Jesus, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate.

Pilate, although a pagan, yielded to their ceremonious laws, and seeing that they hesitated to enter his court, he went out to meet them. According to the formality customary among the Romans, he asked them: "What accusation have you against this Man? They answered: "If He was not a criminal, we would not have brought Him to you thus bound and chained."

Jn 18:29 So Pilate came out to them and said, "What charge do you bring (against) this Man?"

18:30 They answered and said to him, "If He were not a criminal, we would not have handed Him over to you."

But Pilate pressed his questioning and said: "What are the misdeeds, of which He has made Himself guilty"? They answered: "He is convicted of disturbing the community, He wishes to make Himself our King and forbids paying taxes to Caesar. He claims to be the Son of God and has preached a new doctrine, beginning in Galilee through all Judea and Jerusalem".

Lk 23:2 They brought charges against Him, saying, "We found this Man misleading our people; He opposes the payment of taxes to Caesar and maintains that He is the Messiah, a King."

Brothers, notice how the Jews are lying by saying Jesus opposed paying taxes to Caesar. Jesus never said that, He said "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." Mt (22:21)

Mk 15:3 The chief priests accused Him of many things.

Jn 18:31 At this, Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law." The Jews

answered him, “We do not have the right to execute anyone,”

The Mother of Jesus, with John and the other women, they were all present at this interview. Shielded by Her clothing, Mary wept tears of blood; caused by the sorrow that pierced Her heart. She asked the eternal Father to grant Her the favor of not losing sight of Her Divine Son, as far as was naturally possible, until His death. The most prudent Lady fervently prayed, that Pilate be not deceived and obtain clearest insight into the envy of the priests and scribes. In virtue of this prayer, Pilate clearly saw the truth and was convinced of the innocence of Jesus and of His being a victim of their envy.

Mt 27:18 For Pilate knew that it was out of **envy** that they had handed Him over.

Mk 15:10 For Pilate knew that it was out of **envy** that the chief priests had handed Jesus over.

In their hate the Jews were anxious to have Pilate go along with the sentence of death. When they noticed his hesitation, they raised their voices, accusing Jesus over and over again of revolting against the government of Judea, deceiving and stirring up the people. They made this accusation, hoping to stir Pilate to fear for the welfare of his government. Therefore they insisted, that Jesus in having called Himself Christ; was identical with calling oneself King of the Jews.

Lk 23:5 But they were adamant and said, “He is inciting the people with His

teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where He began even to here.”

So Pilate responded by asking Jesus: “What do You say to the accusations which they bring against You”? But Jesus answered not one word in the presence of His accusers.

Mt 27:12 And when He was accused by the chief priests and elders, He made no answer.

This caused Pilate to wonder at such silence and patience. But, desiring to question more closely, whether Jesus was truly a King, he withdrew from the outcry of the Jews and brought Jesus into the court. There he asked Him face to face: “Tell me, are you the King of the Jews”? Pilate could not bring himself to think that He was a King. Therefore he wished to find out, whether Jesus claimed any right to the title of King. Jesus answered: “**Do you say this on your own or have others told you about Me?**” Pilate replied: “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and chief priests have delivered You up to me. What have You done”? Jesus answered: “**My Kingdom is not of this world. If My Kingdom did belong to this world, My attendants (would) be fighting to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, My Kingdom is not here.**” Pilate partly believed this answer and therefore answered: “You are a King then”? Jesus answered: “**You say I am a King. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My Voice.**” Pilate wondered at this answer

and asked: “What is truth”? But without waiting for an answer, he left Jesus in the palace and went outside and spoke to the Jews: “I find no case against Him, but you have a custom, that I should release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews, or Barabbas?” This Barabbas was a thief and murderer, who had killed a man in a quarrel. All the people raised their voice and said: “We want you to release Barabbas, and crucify Jesus”.

Brothers, it seems that men require a King so powerful, that they would not be able to resist Him. And the same can also be said about the Prophets that God sends to His people. Sorry, but God will not make a prophet so powerful that you can't resist him. In the same way God will not over power people with the authority of the Pope. No super natural miracle occurs that over powers us that the Pope is God chosen leader on earth.

Is 65:1 I was ready to respond to those who asked Me not, to be found by those who sought Me not. I said: Here I am! Here I am! To a nation that did not call upon My Name.

Jn 18:33 So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to Him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

18:34 Jesus answered, “Do you say this on your own or have others told you about Me?”

18:35 Pilate answered, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed You over to me. What have You done?”

18:36 Jesus answered, “My Kingdom does not belong to this world. If My Kingdom did belong to this world, My attendants (would) be fighting to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, My Kingdom is not here.”

18:37 So Pilate said to Him, “Then you are a King?” Jesus answered, “You say I am a King. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, *to testify to the truth*. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My Voice.”

18:38 Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” When he had said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them, “I find no guilt in Him.

18:39 But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?”

18:40 They cried out again, “Not this one but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.

Mk 15:2 Pilate questioned Him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said to him in reply, “You say so.”

Lk 23:3 Pilate asked Him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said to him in reply, “You say so.”

Pilate was much disturbed by the answers of Jesus and the stubbornness of the Jews. For on the one hand, Pilate knew that it would be difficult to satisfy the Jews without crucifying Jesus; and on the other hand, he clearly saw that Jews hated Him out of envy and the accusations were false and ridiculous. By the light that Pilate received, he became fully convinced that Jesus was truly

innocent. Although Pilate never understood the mystery of Christ's Divinity and the greatness of His innocence, the words of Jesus, however created an exalted idea of Him in Pilate's mind and made him think that some great mystery was connected with Him. Therefore he desired to free Him.

One of the accusations of the Jews was that Jesus had begun to stir up the people by His preaching in the province of Galilee. This caused Pilate to ask, whether He was a Galilean; and they told him that Jesus was born and raised in that country. Pilate thought this circumstance useful for the solution of his difficulties. So Pilate, seeing that Jesus was not one of his subjects, sent Jesus to Herod, who was the governor of Galilee.



Lk 23:4 Pilate then addressed the chief priests and the crowds, "I find this Man not guilty."

23:5 But they were adamant and said, "He is inciting the people with His teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where He began even to here."

23:6 On hearing this Pilate asked if the Man was a Galilean;

23:7 and upon learning that He was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod who was in Jerusalem at that time.

Pilate sends Jesus to Herod.

Herod was at that time in Jerusalem, celebrating Passover with the Jews. Herod's father, also named Herod the Great, thirty-three years before, had ordered the murders of all the baby boys in Bethlehem, hoping to kill the child Jesus.

Mt 2:16 When Herod (Senior) realized that the magi had deceived him, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi.

(Herod, the son of Herod, his mother was a Jewish woman and because of his mother, Herod observed the Law of Moses.)

Pilate and Herod were not friends at this time and disliked each other. For the two governed the two principal provinces in the area. (Judea and Galilee.) A short

time before, Pilate in his zeal for Roman power, had murdered some Galilean rebels during a public function in the Temple, and mixed their blood with the Holy Sacrifices. Lk (13:1) Herod was highly agitated at this sacrilege. Now Pilate wanted to make amends, so without much trouble to himself, he sent Jesus to Herod to be examined and judged as one of his subjects. Pilate also expected that Herod would set Jesus free as being innocent and a Victim of the hate and envy of the priests and scribes.

Being still bound and chained as before, the soldiers and servants dragged Jesus along by the ropes to where Herod was staying. The Soldiers had to break their way through the crowds because many of the Jews wanted to see the spectacle.

Mary also set forth from the house of Pilate with John and the holy women in order to follow Her Son. It would not have been possible for Her to follow closely enough to be in His sight, if She had not the help of Her holy Angels. They made it possible for Her to be constantly near Her Son. Thus walking through the streets, She saw and heard the insults of His executioners, the blows they dealt Him, the scorn from the people, expressed either as their own or repeated from gossip.

When Herod was informed that Pilate would send Jesus to him, he was highly pleased. Herod knew that Jesus was a great friend of John the Baptist, whom he had ordered to be put to death. Herod also knew of the many miracles Jesus had performed. In foolish curiosity

Herod desired to see Jesus do something new and extraordinary for his entertainment and wonder.

Lk 23:8 Herod was very glad to see Jesus; he had wanted to see Him for a long time, for he had heard about Him and had been hoping to see Him perform some sign.

Jesus therefore came into the presence of Herod, against whom the blood of John the Baptist was calling more loudly than the blood of Abel. (Cain killed his brother Abel. Gn (4:25)) But the unhappy murderer, ignorant of the terrible judgment against him, mockingly greeted our Lord with laughter. Herod began to examine and question Jesus. He thought he could induce Jesus to work some miracle to satisfy his curiosity. But the Lord of wisdom and prudence, standing with a humble reserve before His most unworthy judge, **answered Herod not a word.** For on account of his evil doing he well merited the punishment of not hearing the words of life, which Herod would certainly have heard if he had been disposed to listen to them with reverence.

Lk 23:9 Herod questioned Him at length, but Jesus gave him no answer.

The Lord Will Not Answer A Sinner.

Tb 13:6 When you turn back to the Lord with all your heart, to do what is right before Him, then He will turn back to you, **and no longer hide His face from you.**

Jb 8:20 Behold, God will not cast away the upright; *neither will He take the hand of the wicked.*

Jb 35:12 When they cry out, *He answers not* against the arrogance of the wicked.

Ps 66:18 Were I cherished evil in my heart, *the Lord would not hear.*

Prv 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but the prayer of the just He hears.

Prv 28:9 *When one turns away his ear from hearing the law*, even his prayer is an offensive.

- 1) *“When one turns away his ear from hearing the law”*. Men fail to realize that when they stop studying the law, their prayers are offensive.

Wis 1:1think of the LORD in goodness, and seek Him in integrity of heart;

1:2 *Because He is not found by those who test Him*, nor does He show Himself to those who do not believe in Him.

1:3 For SELF-WILLED counsels separate a man from God, and His power, put to the proof, rebukes the foolhardy.

Is 1:11 ...I have had enough of whole-burnt rams and fat of fatlings; in the blood of calves, lambs and goats I find no pleasure.

1:13 Trample My courts (justice) no more! Bring no more worthless offerings; your incense (prayers) is loathsome to Me.

1:15 When you spread out your hands, I close My eyes to you; though you pray

the more, I will not listen. *Your hands are full of blood.*

1:16 Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before My eyes; cease doing evil;

1:17 learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged,

Brothers, look at your hands, do you see blood? When I look at my hands, I see blood. Yes the blood of my brothers. I was created to be my brother's keeper, but I served only myself. Being blind, I led the blind. Now I must make restitution for my crime. My hope is that the Lord will undo the damage.

Is 59:2 ... *it is your crimes that separate you from your God*, it is your sins that make Him hide His face so that He will not hear you.

Ez 14:3 Son of man, these men have the memory of their idols fresh in their hearts, (Refers to breaking the First Commandment.) and they keep the occasion of their sin before them. *Why should I allow Myself to be consulted by them?*

Ez 39:23 The nations shall know that because of its sins the house of Israel went into exile; for they transgressed against Me, and *I hid My face from them* and handed them over to their foes, so that all of them fell by the sword. (Refers to the Final Test.)

39:24 According to their uncleanness and their transgressions I dealt with them, hiding My face from them.

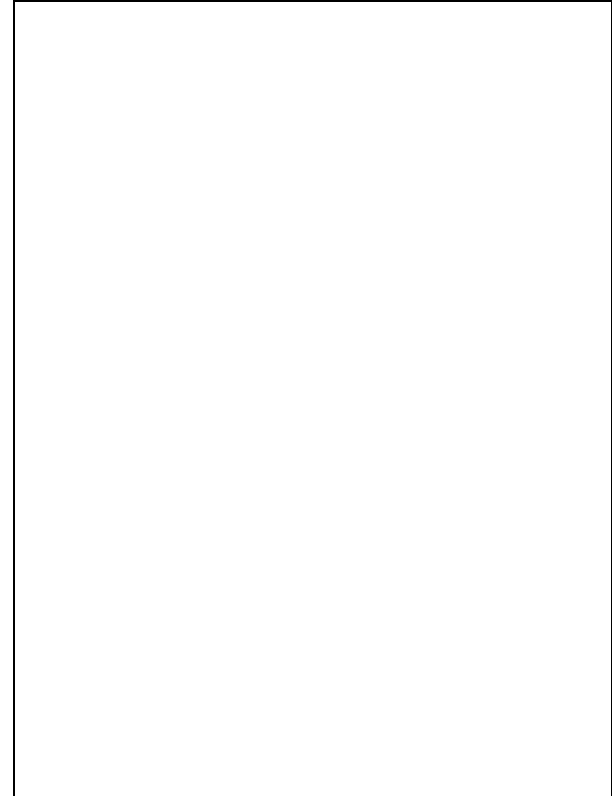
Mi 3:4 *When they cry to the LORD, He shall not answer them;* (Refers to Final Test.) rather shall He hide His face from them

at that time, because of the evil they have done.

Brothers, take note of how easy it is to worship what you do not understand. Herod was in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. As Scripture warns, men make a pretense of religion but deny its power. 2 Tim (3:1)

Brothers, listen and understand, when the Lord says He hides His face from us, He is actually hiding the truth from us. You must pay careful attention to what I am saying. If we live in the flesh, God punishes the flesh by lying to the flesh. The flesh only bears fruit for death. Rom (7:5) (Death is suicidal depression.)

The priests and the scribes followed Jesus to the house of Herod. They made the same accusations and charges before Herod as they had made in the presence of Pilate. But the Lord remained silent in regard to these accusations, much to the disappointment of Herod. Herod was much putout by the Lord's silence and meekness. He tried to hide his confusion by mocking and ridiculing Him. Treating Jesus as a fool and as one failing in mind, they clothed Him in a white garment. For the Hebrews were accustomed to cloth a man in white if they considered the man insane and to be avoided as dangerous. But by the hidden wisdom of God, this dress however signified purity and innocence of Jesus, and these ministers of wickedness were unknowingly giving testimony of the truth.



Ps 69:12 I clothed Myself in sackcloth; and I became a joke for them.

Herod was thankful to Pilate for the courtesy of sending Jesus to him. He informed Pilate, that he found no cause in Him, but held Him to be an ignorant Man of no consequence. Herod and Pilate made peace on that day and continued to be friends thereafter.

Lk 23:10 The chief priests and scribes, meanwhile, stood by accusing Him harshly.

23:11 (Even) Herod and his soldiers treated Him contemptuously and mocked Him, and after clothing Him in a rich cloak, he sent Him back to Pilate.

23:12 Herod and Pilate became friends that very day, even though they had been enemies formerly.

Amid a still greater noise and excitement created by the people, Jesus was dragged back to Pilate. In the midst of all this confusion, the Lord repeated within Himself in unspeakable love, with humility and patience, these words:

Ps 21:7 But I am a worm, hardly human, scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

21:8 All who see Me mock Me; they curl their lips and jeer; they shake their heads at Me:

The priests, using the power of persuasion, changed the people's minds. Amid all the overwhelming scorn, Jesus made no outcry. He made Himself a humble worm, which was despised and crushed as a most vile creature.

Questions

- 1) The Jews brought Jesus to Pilate and accused Jesus of many things. In the Book of Luke, it lists three things in which Jesus is accused. What are they?
- 2) The Jews were unable by the Roman Laws to execute anyone. So the Jews brought Jesus to the Roman governor named _____ who governed Jerusalem.
- 3) Pilate new that the Jews envied Jesus. Scripture says: For Pilate knew that it was out of *envy* that they had handed Him over. The prayers of _____ was the reason that Pilate saw the truth.
- 4) Pilate questioned Jesus about the accusations that the Jews accused Him. Pilate asked Jesus, are You a king? Jesus answered Pilate by saying He was born into the world to testify to the truth. Pilate responded by asking what is _____? But Pilate didn't stay to hear the answer.
- 5) Pilate was much disturbed at Jesus answers and the stubbornness of the Jews with wanting Jesus crucified. So Pilate wanted to find a way out of this problem. Since Jesus was a resident of Galilee, He sent Jesus to _____ who ruled over this territory.
- 6) Why did Herod observe the Jewish Passover?
- 7) Herod was very glad Jesus was being sent to him. Herod wanted to see Jesus perform some _____.
- 8) Herod had killed John the Baptist and was unworthy to hear Jesus speak. Herod asked Jesus many questions but Jesus remained silent. There are many verses in Scripture that say God will not answer a _____.
- 9) From the Book of Proverb it says: *"When one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his _____ is an offensive"*.
- 10) Because Jesus made no reply to Herod's questions, Herod considered Jesus a fool and dressed Jesus in a _____ garment. In God's eyes this garment signified purity and _____ of Jesus.

Jesus Meets His Mother the Second Time.

The Blessed Virgin remained outside of Herod's house and was not present when the priests advanced their insulting accusations. When Jesus came forth, Mary met Him and *They looked upon each other in sorrow*. The sight of the white vestment, by which they proclaimed Him as an insane fool, pierced Her heart with new sorrow. It must be said, She recognized the mystery of this vestment, that is, His purity and innocence. Mary adored Him with deepest reverence and followed Him through the streets back to the house of Pilate.

On the way from Herod to Pilate it happened, that on account of the crush of the people and on account of the haste and pulling of the ropes, they tripped Jesus up and threw Him on the ground several times. His hands being tied, He could not easily help Himself to rise from His falls. Therefore the crowds, who followed and who were neither able, nor cared to stop, stepped upon the Lord, treading Him under foot and kicking Him. Instead of stirring the compassion of the soldiers, this only excited them to loud laughter. You see, they had lost all human compassion, and were like many wild beasts.

Jesus before Pilate the Second Time.

Pilate was again confronted with Jesus and was overwhelmed again by the Jews to condemn Jesus to death. However, Pilate was convinced of the innocence of Christ and the envy of the Jews. Pilate was much put out at Herod for returning Jesus back to him. Feeling himself obliged to give a decision, Pilate sought to satisfy the Jews in different ways. One of these was a private interview with some of the servants and friends of the high priests. He urged them to convince their masters and friends, not any more to ask for the release of Barabbas, but instead demand the release of Jesus of Nazareth; and be satisfied with some punishment he was willing to administer before setting Jesus free. This action Pilate had taken before Jesus arrived from Herod's court.

Pilate spoke to the Jews again and said: "You have brought this Man before me, accusing Him of disturbing the people with His doctrines; and having examined Him in your presence, I was not convinced of the truth of your accusations. And Herod, to whom I have sent Him and before whom you repeated your accusations, refused to condemn Him to death. I have decided to correct and chastise Jesus of Nazareth at the present time. As I am to release some criminal at Passover, I will release Jesus". But the crowd, after hearing Pilate, shouted with one voice: "Enough, enough, not Jesus, but give us Barabbas".

Lk 23:13 Pilate then summoned the chief priests, the rulers, and the people
23:14 and said to them, "You brought this Man to me and accused Him of inciting

the people to revolt. I have conducted my investigation in your presence and have not found this Man guilty of the charges you have brought against Him,

^{23:15} nor did Herod, for he sent Him back to us. So no capital crime has been committed by Him.

^{23:16} Therefore I shall have Him flogged and then release Him.”

^{23:18} But all together they shouted out, “Away with this Man! Release Barabbas to us.”

^{23:19} (Now Barabbas had been imprisoned for a rebellion that had taken place in the city and for murder.)

^{23:20} Again Pilate addressed them, still wishing to release Jesus,

^{23:21} but they continued their shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

The custom of giving freedom to a criminal at Passover was introduced by the Jews in grateful remembrance of the release of their forefathers from the slavery in Egypt. In gratitude for this favor the Jews always searched for the greatest criminal and pardoned him for his crimes; while they refused such clemency to those who were less guilty. In their treaties with the Romans they expressly reserved this privilege; and the governors complied with it. But the Jews in the present instance failed to follow this tradition. According to the law they were to demand the release of the greatest criminal and this they announced Jesus to be; yet they persisted in demanding the punishment of Jesus and the release of Barabbas, whom they judged less guilty. In such blindness, they lost the light of reason even in their own affairs.

Prv 17:15 *He who justifies the wicked* and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD.

- 1) *“He who justifies the wicked”*. Men must recognize this fact, we will be held accountable for even those we vote for, like supporting those that support abortion. We will also be held accountable for unlawful marriages when we attend.

Prv 18:5 It is not good to be partial to a wicked man, or to deprive a righteous man of justice.

Mt 27:15 Now on the occasion of the feast (Passover) the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished.

^{27:16} And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called (Jesus) Barabbas.

^{27:17} So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them, “Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus called Messiah?”

^{27:20} The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus.

^{27:21} The governor said to them in reply, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” They answered, “Barabbas!”

^{27:22} Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus called Messiah?” They all said, “Let Him be crucified!”

^{27:23} But he said, “Why? What evil has He done?” They only shouted the louder, “Let Him be crucified!”

Pilate Is Warned By His Wife To Release Jesus.

While Pilate was disputing with the Jews, his wife, Procula, happened to hear of his doings and sent him a message telling him: “Have nothing to do with that righteous Man. Let Him go free. For I warn you that I have had this very day some visions in regard to Him”! This warning of Procula originated through the activity of Lucifer and his demons. For they, observing all that was happening in regard to the person of Jesus and the unchangeable patience with which He bore all injuries, were more and more confused and staggered in their furious anger. Although the swollen arrogance of Lucifer could not explain how His Divinity could subject Itself to such great insults, nor how He could permit His Body to suffer such injury, and although Lucifer couldn’t come to any certain conclusion whether this Jesus was a God-man or not; yet the dragon was persuaded, that some great mystery was transpiring among men which would be the cause of great damage and defeat to him. Having come to this conclusion with his demons, he many times suggested to the Pharisees to cease their persecutions of Christ. These suggestions, however, *since they originated from hate and were void of any power for good, failed to move the obstinate hearts of the Jews.* So Lucifer went to the wife of Pilate and spoke to her in dreams, representing to her that this Man was just and without guilt, that if her husband were to condemn Jesus, he would lose his rank and she herself

would meet misfortune. Lucifer urged her to advise Pilate to release Jesus and punish Barabbas.

Obviously, Procula was now filled with great fear and terror after these visions. For as soon as she heard what was passing between the Jews and her husband, she sent him the message mentioned by Saint Matthew, not to meddle with this Man or condemn Him to death, whom she held to be just. The demons also gave similar misgivings into the mind of Pilate and these warnings of his wife only increased them. Yet, since Pilate was so often during life in habit of violating the Natural Law, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”, his only consideration rested upon his self-centeredness. During life, Pilate failed to co-operate with the true helps given him by God. You see *it’s hard to practice justice, when you’re in the habit of practicing injustice.* Consequently, the only benefit all these fears produced was that it slowed his unjust proceedings.

Jer 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin? The leopard his spots? As easily would you be able to do good, *accustomed to evil as you are.*

Mt 27:19 While Pilate was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message, “Have nothing to do with that righteous Man. I suffered much in a dream today because of Him.”

Pilate Argues With The Jews A Third Time.

Pilate began for the third time to argue, insisting upon the innocence of Jesus and that he found no crime in Him or any guilt worthy of death, and therefore he would punish and then dismiss Him. But the Jews, on the contrary, demanded that Jesus be crucified.

Lk 23:22 Pilate addressed them a third time, “What evil has this Man done? I found Him guilty of no capital crime. Therefore I shall have Him flogged and then release Him.”

Words Of Wisdom From Our Holy Mother.

My daughter, (Speaking to Mary of Agreda) I see you astonished to find, that Pilate and Herod exhibited less unkindness and cruelty in the death of My Son than the Pharisees. In answer to your thoughts I will remind you of a doctrine not new. Know then that a fall from the highest position is extremely dangerous and the damage done is very difficult to undo. Lucifer held a very high position, as regards to both natural gifts and gifts of grace. For in beauty he excelled all, and by his sin he fell to the deepest abyss, *more hardened than all his followers.* The first parents, Adam and Eve, were exalted to a very high dignity. To restore them and the rest of the human race was the work of an infinite Mercy. Many other souls have reached the heights of perfection and have fallen most unfortunately, arriving at a state in which they almost despaired or found themselves incapable of rising. For the sins of those souls who, by their state or by their advanced virtues, are

weighed in the balance of God’s justice in quite a different way from the sins of those who have been less favored by His Mercy. Although the sins of all are more or less essentially the same, yet the circumstances of sins are very different. For the priests and teachers, they are supposed to be advanced in a holy life, thus they will cause great scandal by their fall. For them, there is much more of bold disrespect against God, whom they know better and to whom they owe much more, but whom they offend with more deliberation and knowledge than the ignorant. As the term of each man’s life is preordained for each one as the time in which he is to gain the eternal reward, (A reason to live forever.) so the measure or number of sins to be borne by the patience of God is likewise preordained. This measure of divine justice is determined not only by the number of sins, but also by their weight. Thus, men with fewer sins are punished more severely than others with many more. Nor can all expect for themselves the same mercy as Peter or the other Apostles. Because not all of them have to their credit as many good actions to be remembered by the Lord. *Remember that you carry your treasure in a fragile vessel, which you can easily lose.* God has favored you with much conversation and this is no assurance that you cannot fall, and no license to live carelessly without reverence and fear. Behold, all things happen to you according to the greatness of your blessings. *For the wrath of the serpent has increased toward you in proportion.* If you meet so many blessings and mercies with ingratitude, you shall be most wretched

and worthy of a rigorous punishment, against which you can make no objection.

Brothers, for heaven to be heaven we must be surrounded by souls that care about our emotions. How can we create heaven for others if we do not care about their emotions? Listen to what I'm saying, when we sin, we are not recording the sorrows of others in our hearts.

Questions

- 1) The Mother of Jesus meets Her Son a second time out side _____ house on His way back to Pilate.
- 2) The crowds, who followed Jesus and who were neither able, nor cared to stop, stepped upon the fallen Lord, treading Him under foot and kicking Him. Instead of stirring the compassion of the soldiers, this only excited them to loud laughter. You see, they had lost all human compassion, and were like many wild _____.
- 3) Pilate was convinced of the innocence of Christ and the _____ of the Jews.
- 4) In gratitude for God releasing the Jews from Egypt at the Passover, the Jews always searched for the greatest criminal and _____ him for his crimes; while they refused such clemency to those who were less guilty.
- 5) The Jews had treaties with the Romans that allowed the release of a _____ at Passover time.
- 6) The Jews chose _____ to be released.
- 7) Who was responsible for the dream Pilate's wife had? In her dream she was told that this Man named Jesus was just and without guilt. If her husband were to condemn Jesus, he would lose his _____ and she herself would meet misfortune.
- 8) In the book of Jeremiah it says, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin? The leopard his _____? As easily would you be able to do good, *accustomed to _____ as you are.*
- 7) Pilate and Herod exhibited less unkindness and cruelty in the death of Jesus than the Pharisees. Know then that a fall from the highest position is extremely dangerous and the _____ done is very difficult to undo.
- 8) For the sins of those souls who, by their state or by their advanced virtues, are _____ in the balance of God's justice in quite a different way from the sins of those who have been _____ favored by His Mercy.
- 9) As the term of each man's life is preordained for each one as the time in which he is to gain the eternal reward, (A reason to live forever.) so the measure or number of sins to be borne by the _____ of God is likewise preordained. This measure of divine justice is determined not only

by the number of _____, but also by
their weight.