

## **September 26**

### Luke 23:13-16

In these verses, we read that Pilate did not find a reason to put Jesus to death.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Pilate realized that Jesus was being falsely accused by the religious leaders and the crowds. Have you, or someone you know, ever been falsely accused? What were the circumstances? Did the situation get straightened out?

#### *Prayer:*

Loving God, please help me to withhold judgement when I hear of an accusation against another person. Sometimes the accusation will be correct, but sometimes it will be false, as it was with Jesus. I pray that I am filled with your spirit of justice and mercy. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

## **September 27**

### Matthew 27:15-23

In this passage, Pilate asked the crowd whether he should release Jesus or another prisoner named Barabbas.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Pilate knew that Jesus was being falsely accused and that the crowd was being manipulated by the religious leaders. What do you think you would have done if you had been in Pilate's position?

#### *Prayer:*

Father God, the people in the crowd allowed others to wrongly direct their thoughts and emotions. They were whipped into a frenzy and they shouted "Crucify him!" Help me to avoid "going along with the crowd," and instead to always submit myself to you. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

## **September 28**

### John 19:1-16

We read in this passage about Jesus being mocked and the crowd again yelling for him to be crucified.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Even the Roman soldiers got into the act of mocking Jesus. Why do you suppose we are so vulnerable to getting caught up in the emotions of other people, and "ganging up" on someone else?

#### *Prayer:*

Merciful God, my prayer today is similar to my prayer yesterday. Help me to always stand with you, and resist following a crowd that would lead me away from you. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

## **September 29**

### Matthew 27:24-26

In this passage we read that Pilate “washed his hands” of the death of Jesus.

#### *Question to Consider:*

Pilate knew that Jesus did not deserve death, yet he allowed him to be crucified anyway. Why do you think he let such an injustice take place?

#### *Prayer:*

Forgiving God, forgive me when I allow myself to be swayed by others, when I allow other people to lead me away from you. I pray that the choices I make will always be pleasing to you. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

## **September 30**

### Luke 23:26-31

These verses tell of Jesus being led to Golgotha, the place where he was crucified.

#### *Question to Consider:*

What would you have said to Jesus if you had been in that crowd watching him walk toward his crucifixion?

#### *Prayer:*

Almighty God, I pray that my actions always demonstrate the love I feel for you. I may not be able to deal with all of the injustices I encounter, but I do have the power to make a difference for *someone*. Please give me the courage to use that power in ways that glorify you. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.