

saying, "Why dost Thou not speak? See how many things they are saying against Thou!" But still Jesus, to Pilate's amazement, did not answer.

Pilate did not wish to kill Jesus, and yet he was afraid of offending the Jews; so in order to put off deciding what should be done with Jesus, he now made the people an offer, saying, "You know that, at the feast time, I always set free one prisoner, who is chosen by the people. There is now in prison, Barabbas, the murderer. Which would you rather? That I should set free the King of the Jews, or Barabbas?" Pilate hoped the people would choose Jesus to go free, but they did not; they chose Barabbas, the murderer.

"Then what shall I do with the King of the Jews?" asked Pilate, still trying to save Jesus. "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" the people shouted again and again. So Pilate, wishing to save himself further trouble, wickedly gave them Jesus, to do with Him as they would; and when the soldiers had beaten Him, they led Him away to be crucified.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How did the chief priests find out where Jesus was? 2. How did they take Him? 3. Why could they not put Him to death? 4. To whom did they take Jesus to be tried? 5. What did Pilate ask the Jews? 6. Why did they say that Jesus should be put to death? 7. What question did Pilate ask Jesus? 8. How did the Saviour answer? 9. What did Jesus do when the people spoke against Him? 10. Why did not Pilate allow Jesus to go free? 11. What offer did he make the people? 12. Whom did they choose? 13. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Story

"I happened once," said a minister, "to be seated in a train, when the conductor passed with a very pretty flower in his buttonhole. Presently there came along a drunken fellow, and as he went by the conductor, he snatched out the flower and flung it out of the car window. I watched the conductor's face flush, and his fist was clenched; but turning with an effort, he went on his way.

"As he passed my seat, I said, 'You took that splendidly!' He nodded his head, and replied: 'If I had not been on duty, sir, I would have knocked his head off!'"

A Christian is always on duty. It was this spirit that the Master Himself showed. When wicked men spoke falsely against Him, He answered them not a word.

Lesson Hymn

O Christ, what burdens bowed Thy head!
Our load was laid on Thee:
Thou stoodest in the sinner's stead,
Bearing all ill for me:
A victim led, Thy blood was shed;
Now there's no load for me. Amen.

—Hymn 47, Book of Praise

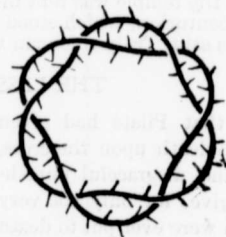
The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—96. *May we pray to Jesus Christ?* Yes; because Jesus Christ is God. 97. *May we pray to the Holy Spirit?* Yes; because the Holy Spirit is God.

SHORTER CATECHISM—25. *How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?* A. Christ executeth the office of a priest in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

SOMETHING TO DRAW

It was very, very cruel, was it not, to wound the brow of the Saviour by placing



upon it this crown of thorns? We think that we would not have done such a thing. Then let us be, oh! so careful not to grieve the loving heart of Jesus by evil words or deeds!

I Have Learned To-day
TO ENDURE WRONG PATIENTLY