

cross," and to the attendant soldier, "Go, soldier, prepare the cross." As they required. Pilate was afraid of being accused before Cæsar, if he should allow one claiming to be a King to go free, John 18: 37; 19: 12. Delivered Jesus to their will; to be scourged with the loaded thongs of the Roman scourge, and then to be crucified.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Mocked by Herod, Luke 23: 1-12. T.—Jesus before Pilate, Luke 23: 13-25. W.—No fault, John 18: 28-40. Th.—Pilate's perplexity, John 19: 1-12. F.—Pilate's weakness, Matt. 27: 15-25. S.—The crown of thorns, Matt. 27: 26-31. S.—Despised and rejected, Isaiah 53.

Prove from Scripture—That Jesus died for sinners.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 36. What are the benefits which, in this life, do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification? A. The benefits which, in this life, do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

The Question on Missions—45. What are the chief difficulties and hindrances? The Chinese language, which is difficult to speak, and much more so to read and write; in addition, since 1894, the Japanese language; the climate, which, on account of prolonged heat and moisture, is unhealthy; as well as the extreme unwillingness of the Chinese to change their ideas, and their dislike of foreigners.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 389 (Supplemental Lesson); 64; 256; 2 (Ps. Sel.); 525 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 90.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—How often was Jesus examined before Pilate? Before what other ruler did He appear?

13-17 What charges were laid against Jesus? What did Pilate say of Him? Who agreed with this? How did Pilate propose to treat Jesus?

18-21 What did the multitude cry out? By whom were they influenced? Whom did they ask to have released instead of Jesus? What did Pilate wish to do? How did the multitude act?

22, 23 How often did Pilate say that Jesus was

innocent? What kept him from setting Him free?

24, 25 To what did Pilate at last agree? Of what was he afraid? How was Jesus then treated?

Seniors and the Home Department—Mention the six trials which Jesus underwent. (1) John 18: 10-24; (2) Matt. 26: 59-68; (3) Luke 22: 66 to 23: 1; (4) Matt. 27: 11-14; (5) Luke 23: 6-12; (6) Luke 23: 13-26.

13-17 Where is the agreement between Pilate and Herod referred to? (Luke 23: 12.) Whose will were these two wicked men carrying out? (Acts 4: 27.) Prove that Jesus was without sin. (Heb. 7: 26.)

18-23 Of what was Pilate convinced? How should he have acted? Contrast his conduct with Paul's. (Acts 26: 19.)

24, 25 Who accepted the guilt of Jesus' death? (Matt. 27: 24, 25.) To what calamity did this lead? (Matt. 23: 34-38.) Will the Jews at last accept Christ? (Rom. 11: 26.)

THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. Jesus before Pilate! Paul before Felix! The religion of Jesus Christ against the mighty empire of Rome! How certain it seemed that Rome would triumph. But her power has perished, her greatness has vanished. The religion then apparently so feeble endures, and will conquer the world.

2. It is an old story, that of the boy of Harlem who stopped a hole in the dyke with his hand all night long, and thus saved the town. But it illustrates the only way to be safe from evil. Let the trickling stream enter, and soon it will become the resistless tide sweeping us on to irreparable ruin.

3. "Oh, that I had been there with my company of heroes!" So said a doughty old captain, when he heard the story of Christ before Pilate. But the greatest Captain of all was there, the Captain strong and brave enough to go through to the end with God's plan. Who will not seek His help—the help which He is so eager to give to all who are set on doing the Father's will.

4. Strong drink has often set men's brains on fire, and sent them forth to deeds, the very thought of which, in their sober moments, would have made them shudder. It is like that, when you are in a crowd bent on evil. Passions flame up of which you knew nothing. Wild impulses are awakened which, unchecked, will carry you to all sorts of lawless deeds.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What was Pilate's opinion of Jesus?.....

2. What did the multitude demand, and why?.....

3. Why did Pilate yield to them?.....