

LESSON IX.

CHRIST BEFORE PILATE

May 28, 1899

John 18: 28-40. Commit to memory vs. 38-40. Compare Matt. 27: 11-26; Mark 15: 1-15; Luke 23: 1-12.

28. Then (1) led they Jesus from Caiaphas (2) unto the hall of judgment; and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, (3) lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.

29. Pilate (4) then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man?

30. They answered and said unto him, (5) If he were not a malefactor, we (6) would not have delivered him up unto thee.

31. (7) Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:

32. That the (8) saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying (9) what death he should die.

33. Then (10) Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?

34. Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this (11) thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee (12) of me?

35. Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own

nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?

36. Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

37. Pilate, therefore, said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest (13) that I am a king. To this end (14) was I born, and for this cause (15) came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

38. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find (16) in him no fault at all.

39. But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?

40. Then (17) cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barab'bas. Now Barab'bas was a robber

Revised Version.—(1) They lead Jesus therefore; (2) into the palace. *Margin, Greek, Pretorium.* (3) That they might not; (4) Therefore. (5) If this man were not an evil doer; (6) Should; (7) Pilate therefore. . . . Take him yourselves; (8) Word; (9) By what manner; (10) Pilate therefore entered again into the palace; (11) Omit thing; (12) Concerning me; (13) *Margin.* Or, Thou sayest it because I am a King; (14) Have I been; (15) Am I come; (16) No crime in him; (17) They cried out therefore again.

GOLDEN TEXT

"I find no fault in him."
John 19: 4.

DAILY READINGS

M.—John 18: 28-40. Christ before Pilate.

T.—Luke 23: 1-12. Mocked by Herod.

W.—Matt. 27: 15-26. Rejected of men.

T.—John 19: 1-16. No fault.

F.—Acts 4: 23-30. Powerful enemies.

S.—Heb. 12: 1-6. Example of suffering.

M.—Heb. 5: 1-9. Perfect by suffering.

LESSON PLAN

CHRIST BEFORE PILATE

I. Accused by the Jews, 28-32.

To Pilate, the Roman Governor.

II. Revealing Himself to Pilate, 33-38 (a).

As a King, whose kingdom is not of this world.

III. Found guiltless, and yet condemned, 38 (b)-40.

Because Pilate wished to curry favor with the Jews

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 19 (Ps.) 3 132, 147, 545.

TIME

From 5 o'clock onward, that same sad Friday morning

PLACE

Pilate's Judgment Hall

CATECHISM

Q. 61. What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment forbiddeth, the omission or careless performance of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words or works, about our worldly employments, or recreations.

CONNECTION

Jesus had been led from Annas to Caiaphas for trial. He was condemned and handed over to the mob (Matt. 26: 57-68). The night session, however, was illegal: and so a morning session of the Sanhedrim was held to pass the sentence (Luke 22: 66-71). He was then taken to Pilate.

EXPLANATION

28. Then led they: to get Pilate's consent to put Jesus to death. **The hall of judgment:** the place where Pilate administered justice. **Leet defiled:** by entering a house not purified from leaven during the Passover. (Deut. 16: 4) **That they Passover.** The Passover had been observed the night before, according to the other gospels; perhaps John refers to the whole paschal festival.

29. Pilate then went out. He bears with their religious scruples. **What accusation?** He requires a formal charge.

30. If he were not a malefactor. Their reply shows their vexation at Pilate's attempt to reopen the case.

31, 32. Take ye Him. Pilate sharply tells them that if they are going to be the judges they must be content with their own law. **It is**