

Lesson XI.

JESUS AND PILATE

March 17, 1901

Luke 23 : 13-26—Memory Verses, 20-24

Golden Text—I find no fault in this man.—Luke 23 : 4.

13 And Pi'l'ate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people,

14 Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people : and behold, I, having examined *him* before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him :

15 No, nor yet Her'od : for I sent you to him ; and lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.

16 I will therefore chastise him, and release *him*.

17 (For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.)

18 And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this *man*, and release unto us Barab'-bas.

19 (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.)

20 Pi'l'ate therefore, willing to release Je'sus, spake again to them.

21 But they cried, saying, Crucify *him*, crucify him.

22 And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done ? I have found no cause

of death in him : I will therefore chastise him, and let *him* go.

23 And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voice of them and of the chief priests prevailed.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Although the Jews had said that Jesus must die, they could not put Him to death until Pilate, the governor, first gave permission.

Now Jesus had been standing all night in the High Priest's house, and very early the next morning these wicked priests, with a crowd of shouting angry people, led Him through the streets to Pilate's palace.

Pilate was a cruel and hard judge. He hated the Jews, but wanted them to be friendly to him, that he might stand well with his master, the Emperor at Rome.

He was much displeased to hear the noise and confusion outside his palace. So he went out and said to the Jews : "What is the matter ? What has this man done ?"

pointing to Jesus. They answered : "He is a bad man or we would not have brought him."

Then said Pilate : "I do not want to be bothered with your quarrels. Take Him away and punish Him yourselves, or say at once what He has done." They answered : "He says He is a king. He should be put to death."

Pilate saw that Jesus was sad and weary-looking. "He does not seem much like a king, nor yet like a bad man," he thought to himself.

Then Pilate told Jesus to come inside and be judged. Pilate said : "Is it true that you are a king ?" Jesus said : "I am ; but not of this world." When he had asked Him