

# Shamefully Handed Over

---

March 13

John 19: 1-16

Luke VanHuizen

I am moved by the reactions of Pilate when Jesus was held before him. Pilate was obviously hesitant about crucifying Jesus, as when he said "I find no basis for a charge against him". Pilate continued to try to convince the Jews of Jesus' innocence, but the overwhelming presence of the furious Jewish crowds was too much for him to bear. Finally, Pilate gives in to the Jews and, it seems, he shamefully hands over Jesus.

I feel as though Pilate was stuck with two options: what he knew was right morally, and what he knew was right for his assurance of political status. If he had stuck to his gut feeling, I believe God may have perhaps shown mercy on him, even though it seemed that he would most likely be relentlessly devoured by the Jews. Jesus knew this could never happen, as God had a set plan for him, which needed to be lived out.

Though Pilate knew in his heart that he should do the right thing, he fell into the pit of self preservation, rather than putting God first. But God showed even him grace through Christ's death, as he does for all sinners, including us. Although I feel pity on Pilate's innocent soul each time I hear or read this story, I am extremely grateful for the grace God has given us through the death of his son, Jesus.

***Prayer: Lord, I am grateful for your unfailing love for us. Even though often it feels as though there are more appealing things to do which may benefit us. I thank you that you sent your son to die for us, in spite of the things we do to protect our own interests. Teach us to remember to put you in our primary sights. Thank you for your grace. AMEN.***

---