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### The Way Up to the Cross

The Injustice that Brought Justification

Matthew 27:11–26 (HCSB)

Now Jesus stood before the governor. “Are You the King of the Jews?” the governor asked Him. Jesus answered, “You have said it.”<sup>12</sup> And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He didn’t answer.<sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to Him, “Don’t You hear how much they are testifying against You?”<sup>14</sup> But He didn’t answer him on even one charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.<sup>15</sup> At the festival the governor’s custom was to release to the crowd a prisoner they wanted.<sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.<sup>17</sup> So when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, “Who is it you want me to release for you—Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Messiah?”<sup>18</sup> For he knew they had handed Him over because of envy.<sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judge’s bench, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for today I’ve suffered terribly in a dream because of Him!”<sup>20</sup> The chief priests and the elders, however, persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to execute Jesus.<sup>21</sup> The governor asked them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” “Barabbas!” they answered.<sup>22</sup> Pilate asked them, “What should I do then with Jesus, who is called Messiah?” They all answered, “Crucify Him!”<sup>23</sup> Then he said, “Why? What has He done wrong?” But they kept shouting, “Crucify Him!” all the more.<sup>24</sup> When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that a riot was starting instead, he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, “I am innocent of this man’s blood. See to it yourselves!”<sup>25</sup> All the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!”<sup>26</sup> Then he released Barabbas to them. But after having Jesus flogged, he handed Him over to be crucified.

### 1. TRIALS DO NOT ALWAYS \_\_\_\_\_ JUSTICE vv 11-14

- Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ to the chief priests’ false charges, but He answered Pilate.
- Jesus did not resist God’s plan to redeem the world.
- When we \_\_\_\_\_ injustice because of our stand for Christ, we must remember what Christ did for us.

*God sat in silence while the sins of the world were placed upon his Son. Was it right? No. Was it fair? No. Was it love? Yes. In a world of injustice, God once and for all tipped the scales in the favor of hope.*  
**Max L. Lucado (1955- )**

### 2. POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY \_\_\_\_\_ A DEATH SENTENCE vv 15-23

- The governor just wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ the Jews.
- The governor was more concerned about crowd control than crimes committed.
- The scene was carefully orchestrated while God’s purpose was eternally \_\_\_\_\_.

Acts 2:23 (HCSB)

*Though He was delivered up according to God’s determined plan and foreknowledge, you used lawless people to nail Him to a cross and kill Him.*

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ ONLY COMES BY THE SHEDDING OF INNOCENT BLOOD vv 24-26

- Pilate tried to \_\_\_\_\_ himself of killing Jesus by washing his hands.
- The people tried to absolve themselves of guilt by accepting responsibility for His death.
- Ironically, the only way to eliminate the \_\_\_\_\_ of crucifying Jesus was by His blood.

### The Next Step:

Receive the salvation God offers by the injustice of the cross.