

A life or death choice (Matthew 27:1-26)

Introduction

- What is a major theme of this morning's passage?
- What has just happened in Matthew's story?

Matthew 27:1-26 and Explanation

- What problem do the Jewish leaders have?
- What must v1-2 have been like for Jesus?
- What happens in v3-5?
- Explain what is fulfilled in v6-10.
- Give a literal rendering of v11.
- What must v12-14 have been like for Jesus?
- What is Pilate's hope in v15-18?
- Pilate's wife intervenes in v19, but what must v20-23 have been like for Jesus?
- What extraordinary thing happens in v24-25?
- What must v26 have been like for Jesus?

i Jesus' innocence

- Which three parts of our passage stress Jesus' innocence?
 - i)
 - ii)
 - iii)
- List some other verses which stress Jesus' innocence and sinlessness.

- What is the first response this calls from us and why?
- What is the second response this calls from us and why?

ii) The people's responsibility

- Which four people or groups of people were responsible for the impending death of Jesus?
 - i)
 - ii)
 - iii)
 - iv)
- What does John 3:19 show, however?
- What does this show about the human heart?
- What is the first implication of this for us?
- How has God overruled this woeful situation according to Acts 4:27-28?
- What is the second implication of this for us?

iii Judas' condemnation

- Where, according to Matthew 26:14, is Judas today?
- Give two reasons why this is especially sad.
 - i)
 - ii)
- What is Judas for us?
- Who especially does he warn?
- Where do you need to turn if you are like Judas?