

# 2:42LifeGroups

GROWING TOGETHER IN THE GOSPEL

## Growth Sheet 3/18/18

This morning we looked at three groups of people in the Gospel narrative that “delivered” Jesus over to his eventual crucifixion. In chronological order, these groups were Judas, the religious establishment, and Pilate. Although the eventual result was agreeable to all three groups, their motivations were different.

- What was Judas’ motivation for betraying Christ? In what ways do you identify with him? Judas demonstrated that it is impossible to serve God and money. In what respects have you found this to be true?
- Why was the religious establishment so opposed to Jesus? In what ways do you identify with them?
- It is easy to condemn Pilate and overlook our own equally devious behavior. Why did Pilate do what he did? In what ways do you identify with Pilate?

Judas demonstrated a motivation of greed (Matthew 26:6-16). The religious leaders were envious of Christ (Matthew 27:18). Pilate demonstrated cowardly ambition (Matthew 27:26).

It’s hopeful to think that we would have been the few to stand up and shout that Jesus should be freed, but consider this hymn written by Horatius Bonar.

1. I see the crowd in Pilate’s hall,  
I mark their wrathful mien;  
Their shouts of crucify appall,  
With blasphemy between.

2. And of that shouting multitude  
I feel that I am one;  
And in that din of voices rude,  
I recognize my own.

3. I see the scourges tear His back,  
I see the piercing crown,  
And of that crowd who smite and mock,  
I feel that I am one.

4. Around yon cross, the throng I see,  
Mocking the sufferer's groan,  
Yet still my voice it seems to be—  
As if I mocked alone.

5. 'Twas I that shed the sacred blood,  
I nailed Him to the tree,  
I crucified the Christ of God,  
I joined the mockery.

6. Yet not the less that blood avails,  
To cleanse away my sin,  
And not the less that cross prevails  
To give me peace within.

- Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

- Discuss this quote found in John Stott's book, The Cross of Christ: "Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us"

Although we've been discussing where the responsibility of Christ's death lies, Christ voluntarily went to the cross, like a sheep led to slaughter. The motivations of men were evil, but yet, what was Jesus motivated by? Read Galatians 2:20 and Romans 8:32 (the word given in both verses is the Greek word "Paradidomi").

As you consider your sinfulness and the great love of Jesus, how should this awe of God's kindness to you fuel your:

- Relationships (with spouse/co-workers/relative)
- Actions to your neighbors
- Ministry to the body of Christ
- Discipleship
- Worship, both with your church and privately