

Derek Cooper

Christ's sinless perfection

People said He was a doer of evil (John 18:30). Many times the Jewish leaders tried to make Him say or do something wrong. In their trial of Jesus the leaders tried to find fault in Him, but failed. Those who would witness against Him could not agree among themselves. Eventually the accusation: *'We heard Him say, I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands'* (Mark 14:58) was made; this was both a distortion and a misunderstanding of what the Lord Jesus had said (John 2:18-21). Although they could find nothing wrong with the Lord, the Jewish leaders took Him to Pilate calling Him *'an evildoer'*.

That the Lord was not an evildoer, but was righteous and innocent of any misdemeanour was very clear. The testimony of six people who were not followers of the Lord, but who acknowledged (by word or deed) His innocence and righteousness is recorded. That He was perfectly innocent was clearly repeatedly noted.

Here are the 6:

- **Judas Iscariot.** Judas was an evil man who was with the Lord for those three years, but he did not put his trust in Him. He sold the Lord Jesus for thirty silver pieces. But when he saw that Jesus was taken Judas felt remorse, threw down the silver and stated: *'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood'* (Matt 27:3-4 NKJV). Judas knew He was innocent.
- **Pilate.** He repeatedly asserted the innocence of the Lord. Twice in Luke and three times in John Pilate says: *'I find no fault in Him'* (Luke 23:4, 14; John 18:38; 19:4, 6). Luke also records him as saying, *'nothing deserving of death has been done by Him'* (23:15), and later on *'I have found no reason for death in Him'* (23:22). In Matthew 27:24 we find Pilate washing his hands and saying, *'I am innocent of the blood of this just Person.'* Justice was not Pilate's primary concern, so he condemned a Man he knew was innocent.

- **Pilate's wife.** She had *'suffered many things today in a dream because of Him'* (Matt 27:19), and sent a message to her husband telling him to have nothing to do with the prisoner. He was *'a just man'*.
- **King Herod.** When Pilate heard that the Lord Jesus came from Galilee, he sent Him and the accusers to Herod. Galilee was under Herod's jurisdiction (Luke 23:5-11). Herod could find no fault, so he sent Jesus back to Pilate. As Pilate put it: *'I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him, no, neither did Herod'* (Luke 23:14-15).
- **The thief.** One of the crucified thieves said to the other one about the Man on the centre cross: *'this Man has done nothing wrong'* (Luke 23:41). Unlike, it seems, the other four already noted who recognized the innocence of the Lord Jesus, he goes beyond that recognition to faith in Him.
- **The Roman centurion.** Finally as Christ dies with a shout of triumph, the centurion looks on with wonder. Jesus was so different to all the other prisoners he had executed in this way. *'Certainly this was a righteous man'*, he says (Luke 23:47).

The New Testament letters confirm the sinlessness of the Lord Jesus: The writer to the Hebrews describes Him as *'holy, harmless and undefiled'* (Heb 7:26). Peter writes about Christ, quoting from Isa 53:9: *'Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth'* (1 Pet 2:22).

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