Intro: In coming to the text this Lord’s Day, Jesus our Savior, knowing the hour had come in which He should ______________ the will of the Father by suffering the __________, had surrendered Himself to His accusers.

A. Indeed, God is sovereign over all for though Pilate sought to release Jesus, God’s __________ would be __________! And at the same time, though Christ’s death was brought about “by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God,” ________ in their rejection of Jesus remain ___________________ before God for they “nailed” Jesus “to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.”

B. And this is important to see: both God sovereign over all and men responsible for their sin. This, at once, helps us to realize the __________ of God in the giving of His Son, and the __________________ of man in the murder of His Son.

I. Having declared ______________ ______________, Pilate devised a plan whereby he thought he would secure Jesus’ release.

A. Pilate sought to free Jesus by invoking a Passover tradition whereby a prisoner would be set free. He let ________ ______________ between Jesus and the notorious Barabbas.

1. Their response? Verse 40, “Therefore they cried out again, saying, ‘______ __________ _____, but Barabbas.’"

II. Instead of giving the Jews what they wanted, Pilate continued to look for a convenient ______ _____ of the tenuous situation. In a feeble effort to satisfy the Jews hatred Pilate had ______________ ______________.

A. To ________ further pain and injury the soldiers wove together a “crown of __________ and put it on His head.”

B. To further His pain and their mocking ______________ they also arrayed Jesus in a purple _________.

C. Upon again announcing that ________ was free of guilt, Pilate showed the people how much He had ________________, and that in hopes that their sinful and ________________ appetite would be satisfied.

III. To see Jesus __________ in any state fell intolerably short of the priest’s monstrous goal, so they cried out, “_____________, crucify!”

A. Pilate, being fed up with their antics, told them to take Jesus themselves and to crucify Him, telling them for the __________ __________ that He found ____ __________ in Him.

B. As a last ditch effort the Jews then stated the charge they had avoided earlier, accusing Jesus of ________________. 
IV. This charge was _________________ to Pilate.
   A. ________________, verse 9, “… he [Pilate] entered into the Praetorium again, and said to Jesus, ‘_____________ are You from?’ But Jesus gave him no answer.”

   1. Here is the prophecy of Isaiah 53:7 fulfilled, “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.”
   Dear church! ___ ______ down _____ _______ ____ for you, and for me.

V. Angered by the Lord’s silence Pilate told Jesus that His fate lay ___________ ____________.
   A. In calm repose Jesus expressed that His life was ___ the __________ __________ above, who is the Giver of all authority. Pilate would have no authority to condemn Jesus if it had not been given him from above.
   B. At that, __________, a wicked man by all accounts, a man who had no respect for the God of Israel, who cared not for Jewish law or tradition, searched for a way to keep Jesus from the cross making _______________ _______________ to release Him.

VI. Desiring that Jesus be crucified the Jews _________________ _______________ by declaring that if he released Jesus then he himself was an enemy of Caesar for, as they insisted, if Jesus declared Himself to be a king then He directly opposed and ________________ Caesar.
   A. Worn down and given up, afraid of Jesus but ________________ the Jew’s even more, Pilate ordered Jesus brought out that he might pronounce a ________________.
   B. Pilate ________________ Jesus to the will of the Jewish leadership, condemning Him to death by _________________.

Closing: As ____________ from eternity past Jesus must die upon a cross, and this is what sinful men brought about.
   A. Let it be known both here and now: though men stood in judgment over Jesus, ____________ ____________, stands in judgment over all mankind. Though at the will of God men stood in judgment of Christ, it is appointed unto man once to die, _______ comes their ________________.

While we want to stand back and marvel at the way of the righteous God as He interacts with sinful man, always bringing about His will while men are fully responsible for their sin, we, in truth, cannot stand back for sinful men will “__________ ____________ to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead” (1 Peter 4:5).

Each of us would do well to personalize the question Pilate asked of the Jews: Matt 27:22, “Then __________ _______ ____ with Jesus who is called Christ?” Precious soul, is Jesus your King or would you have another? Who do you say that He is? What judgment do you make? A proper judgment here will save your soul, and an improper judgment will condemn your soul. What will you do with Jesus who is called the Christ? ________________ upon the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.