

Title: Referee - John 19 1-19

Read:

¹⁻³ So Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped. The soldiers, having braided a crown from thorns, set it on his head, threw a purple robe over him, and approached him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they greeted him with slaps in the face. ⁴⁻⁵ Pilate went back out again and said to them, "I present him to you, but I want you to know that I do not find him guilty of any crime." Just then Jesus came out wearing the thorn crown and purple robe. Pilate announced, "Here he is: the Man." ⁶ When the high priests and police saw him, they shouted in a frenzy, "Crucify! Crucify!" Pilate told them, "You take him. You crucify him. I find nothing wrong with him." ⁷ The Jews answered, "We have a law, and by that law he must die because he claimed to be the Son of God." ⁸⁻⁹ When Pilate heard this, he became even more scared. He went back into the palace and said to Jesus, "Where did you come from?" Jesus gave no answer. ¹⁰ Pilate said, "You won't talk? Don't you know that I have the authority to pardon you, and the authority to—crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus said, "You haven't a shred of authority over me except what has been given you from heaven. That's why the one who betrayed me to you has committed a far greater fault." ¹² At this, Pilate tried his best to pardon him, but the Jews shouted him down: "If you pardon this man, you're no friend of Caesar's. Anyone setting himself up as 'king' defies Caesar." ¹³⁻¹⁴ When Pilate heard those words, he led Jesus outside. He sat down at the judgment seat in the area designated Stone Court (in Hebrew, Gabbatha). It was the preparation day for Passover. The hour was noon. Pilate said to the Jews, "Here is your king." ¹⁵ They shouted back, "Kill him! Kill him! Crucify him!" Pilate said, "I am to crucify your king?" The high priests answered, "We have no king except Caesar." ¹⁶⁻¹⁹ Pilate caved in to their demand. He turned him over to be crucified.

Think:

How easily we can get drawn along with the crowd. Just a few days ago these were the same people that welcomed Jesus into town as a King, shouting Hosanna and praising his name. Yet here they are, shouting for his torture and death on a cross. It's just like the feeling you get at a football game. The emotion inside of you can get whipped up into a frenzy, and before you know it you're shouting things at the referee that you wouldn't believe you could say. What is it that makes us want to be part of the crowd? What is it that makes us do and say things that are wrong rather than stand out from the crowd? Fear. Fear of being different; fear that if we don't run with the crowd that they may turn on us. At school and college we may run with the crowd and gossip about friends, in the hope the crowd won't gossip about us. We dress like the in-crowd so that we have an identity and won't stand out. Well you have an identity, you are a Christ Follower. Your identity wasn't created in some fashion house, where what they really want is your money. Your identity isn't in some label, like Goff, Emo or Skater. You are not part of the crowd, you were created individual, and God has known you before you were born. You know the difference between what the crowd think is right, and what you know to be right. Part of the crowd? No, you are too good for that, God made you too individual to run with the crowd.

Pray:

My Lord, my God, my Father, thank you for creating me, and creating me individual. Thank you that you have known me before I was born. Lord please help me show the crowd you in all that I do. Amen.

Action:

God said get to know the crowd but don't become like the crowd. Why not invite a couple of the guys who run with the crowd to the next event your group runs. Bye.