

Chapter 23

The Iewes accufe him to Pilate the Gentil: 4. who feeking earnestly to deliuer him, fpecially after that Herod fent him backe, 17. they not only preferre the murderer Barabbas, but alfo crie, CRVCIFIGE: 26. In the way to Caluarie he foretellethe the women that lamented vpon him, the horrible deftruction of their Hierufalem. 32. Vpon the croffe he is between two theeues, 35. fcornd of the Iewes, 36. of the fouldiares, 39. and of one of the theeues, 40. but euen there confefed of the other theefe, 44. and after his death (becaufe of the great miracles concurring) alfo of the Centurion, 48. yea and of the whole multitude. 50. And finally he is buried honourably.

*Mt. 27, 1. 11.
Mr. 15, 1.
Io. 18, 17.*

And al the multitude of them rifing vp, led him to Pilate. ² And they began to accufe him, faying: We haue found this man fubuerting our Nation, & prohibiting to giue tributes to Cæfar, and faying that he is Chrift the King. ³ And Pilate asked him, faying: Art thou the King of the Iewes? But he anfwering faid: Thou fayeft. ⁴ And Pilate faid to the cheefe Priefts and multitudes: I find no caufe in this man. ⁵ But they were more earnest, faying: He ftirreth the people teaching throughout al Iewrie, beginning from Galilee euen hither. ⁶ But Pilate hearing Galilee, asked if the man were of Galilee. ⁷ And when he vnderftood that he was of Herods iurifdiction, he fent him backe to Herod, who was alfo himfelf at Hierufalem in thofe daies.

GOOD friday.

⁸ And Herod feeing IESVS, was very glad, for he was defirous of a long time to fee him, for becaufe he heard many things of him: and he hoped to fee fome figne wrought by him. ⁹ And he asked him in many wordes. But he answered him nothing. ¹⁰ And thereftood the cheefe Priefts and the Scribes constantly accusing him. ¹¹ And Herod with his armie fet him at naught: and he mocked him, putting on him a white garment, and fent him back to Pilate. ¹² And Herod and Pilate

were made freindes that day. For before they were enemies one to another.

¹³ And Pilate calling together the cheefe Priests and Magiftrates, and the people, ¹⁴ faid to them: You haue prefented vnto me this man, as auerting the People, and behold I examining him before you, haue found no caufe in this man of thofe things, wherein you accufe him. ¹⁵ No, nor Herod neither. For I fent you to him, and behold, nothing worthie of death is done to him. ¹⁶ I wil chaften him therfore and dimiffe him.

¹⁷ And he of neceffitie had to releafe vnto them vpon the feaft day, one. ¹⁸ But the whole multitude together cried out, faying: Difpatch him, and releafe vs Barabbas. ¹⁹ Who was for a certaine fedition made in the citie and murder, caft into prifon. ²⁰ And Pilate againe fpake to them, defirous to releafe IESVS. ²¹ But they cried againe, faying: Crucifie, crucifie him. ²² And he the third time faid to them: Why, what euil hath this man done? I find no caufe of death in him. I wil correct him therfore & let him goe. ²³ But they were infant with loud voices requiring that he might be crucified. And their voices preuailed. ²⁴ And Pilate adiudged their petition to be done. ²⁵ And he releafed vnto them him that for murder and fedition had been caft into prifon, whom they demanded: but IESVS he deliuered to their pleafure.

²⁶ And when they led him, they tooke one Simon of Cyrene cōming from the countrie: and they laid the Croffe vpon him to carie after IESVS. ²⁷ And there followed him a great multitude of people, and of women which bewailed and lamented him. ²⁸ But IESVS turning to them, faid: Daughters of Hierufalem, weepe not vpon me, but weepe vpon your felues, and vpon your children. ²⁹ For behold the daies fhall come, wherein they wil fay: Bleffed are the barren, and the wombes that haue not borne, & the pappes that haue not giuen fuck. ³⁰ *Then fhall they begin to fay to the mountaines, Fal vpon vs: and to the hilles, Couer vs.* ³¹ For if in the greene wood they doe thefe things, in the drie what fhall be done?

Of. 10, 8.

³² And there were led also other two malefactours with him, to be executed. ³³ And after they came to the place which is called Caluarie, there they crucified him: and the theeues, one on the right hand and the other on the left. ³⁴ And IESVS said: Father, [♠]forgiue them, for they know not what they doe. But they deuiding his garments, did cast lots.

expecting,

³⁵ And the people stood ‘beholding,’ and the Princes with them derided him, saying: Others he hath faued, let him faue himself, if this be Chrift, the elect of God. ³⁶ And the fouldiars also mocked him cōming to him, and offering him vinegre, ³⁷ saying: If thou be the King of the Iewes, faue thy self. ³⁸ And there was also a superfcription written ouer him in Greeke, and Latine, and Hebrew letters: THIS IS THE KING OF THE IEWES. ³⁹ And one of those theeues that were hanged, blasphemed him, saying: If thou be Chrift, faue thy self, and vs. ⁴⁰ But the other answering, rebuked him, saying: Neither doest thou feare God, where as thou art in the same damnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed iuftly, for we receiue worthie of our doings: but this man hath done no euil. ⁴² And he said to IESVS: Lord, remember me when thou shalt come into thy Kingdom. ⁴³ And IESVS said to him: Amen I say to thee; this day thou shalt be with me [♠]in Paradife.

⁴⁴ And it was almost the fixt houre: and there was made darkeneffe vpon the whole earth vntil the ninth houre. ⁴⁵ And the ^a)funne was darkened; and the veile of the Temple was rent in the middes. ⁴⁶ And IESVS crying with a loud voice, said: *Father, into thy handes I commend my spirit.* And saying this, he gaue vp the ghoft.

Pf. 30, 6.

⁴⁷ And the Centurion feeling that which was done, glorified God, saying: Indeed this man was iuft. ⁴⁸ And al the multitude of them that were present together at that sight, and saw the things that were done, returned knocking their breasts. ⁴⁹ And al his acquaintance stood

^a This eclipse was feene and wondred at as a thing about nature, of Dionysius Areopagita at Thebes, when he was yet a Pagan. *Dionysf. ep. ad Polycarp et ep. ad Apollophanem.*

a far off, and the women that had followed him from Galilee, seeing these things.

Mat. 27, 57.
Mr. 15, 43.
Io. 19, 38.

⁵⁰ And behold a man named Ioseph, which was a Senatour, a good man and a iust. ⁵¹ He had not consented to their counsel and doings, of Arimathæa a citie of Iewrie, who also himself expected the Kingdom of God. ⁵² This man came to Pilate, and asked the body of IESVS. ⁵³ And taking it downe, wrapped it in findon, and laid him in a monument hewed of ftone, wherein neuer yet any man had been laid. ⁵⁴ And it was the day of Parafceue, and the Sabbath drew neere. ⁵⁵ And the women that were come with him from Galilee, following after saw the monument, and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶ And returning they prepared spices and ointments: and on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandement.

ANNOTATIONS

34 Forgiue them) A perfect example of charitie in our Sauour praying for his crucifiers, which the first martyr S. Steuen did follow, *Act. 7:* and the prayers of both were heard: Christs praier taking effect in the Centurion and others, Steuens in Paul.

43 In Paradife) Thou maist not hereupon differre thy conuerfion or ammendement, prefuming of grace at the last houre of thy life, nor looke to haue saluation by faith and confession of Chrifft without good workes, not to goe straight to Heauen without satisfaction penance, or punishment for thy former finnes & life il spent; nor challenge securitie and certaine knowledge of thy saluation. For this good theebes case is not common but a rare exāple of mercie & prerogatiue. But for the first point, learne only not to despaire, though thou hast been il to the last moment of thy life. For the second, that faith, hope, and charitie, repentance, and good wil be sufficient, and good workes not required, where for want of time and opportunitie they cannot be had. For the third, that Chrifft gaue to this happy man for his zelous confession of him & reprehending his fellow not only remission of his finnes, but also by extraordinarie grace, a pardon of al penance and satisfaction due either in this life or the next for the same: euen as the holy Church by his example and commifsion giueth pardons also to some of her zelous children of al punishment due for their offenses, & such goe straight to Heauen. Lastly, that euery one hath not a reuelation of his saluation as this man had, and therefore can not be so sure as he was.

Pardon of due penance and satisfaction.

53 Wherein neuer) As in the wombe of MARIE none was conceiued before nor after him, fo in this monument none was laid before nor after him: which prerogatiue (no doubt) was of Gods prouidence; this Iofeph no leffe abftaining afterward to be buried in it, then the other Iofeph from copulation with the mother of our Lord. *S. Auguftine.*

55 Saw the monument) Thefe good women of great deuotion obserued the fepulchre for the honour of the holy body. Whereupon the deuotion of faithful folke watching & vifiting on Good-Friday and Eafter eue the fepulchre made in euery Church for memorie of our Lords burial, is exceeding good & godly, fpecially the B. Sacrament for more fignification fake being prefent in the fame Sepulcher.

Vifiting the Sepulcher, or Sepulchres.