

Love Letters from Your Father

2. Weighing the entire state of affairs, Pilate thought, “Why not take the easy way out? Punishing this upstart vagabond Rabbi

Jesus, who offended His betters, is all they ask. This Nazarene was expendable and the fact that He lives or dies would probably be of no importance; no one would ever hear of Him again.”

Still laboring under the pretense that he was in full command, Pilate uneasily ordered Jesus to be bound to the public whipping post in the Lithostratos courtyard, and undergo the traditional pre-execution flogging. There, the Jewish mob and leaders could observe Jesus’ flesh-ripping anguish from the other side of the spear-formed barrier, and define for themselves if this torturous ordeal was a sufficient penalty. It was not. Pilate counted on

utilizing this wretched spectacle to persuade the public into calling out for the Innocent Prisoner’s immediate release. To use an evil means to a good end always fails to transform the evil done. There is no morality that defends the abandonment of every God-given human right to justice. It is every man’s divine inheritance, and no judge, no governor or Sanhedrin inquisition can deny it, much less for God’s own Son.

Pilate’s court order to scourge Jesus was indicated not by the accused’s guilt but through an unjust judge’s compromising of justice. It was a maneuver to cool the Rabbinate’s heated determination to liquidate Jesus, but compromise never does

succeed against terrorism and arrogant power. The best that can be said for Pilate is he may have thought this vicious flesh-stripping, bone-exposing torture would give the more moderate Jews, if

any were out there, an opportunity to protest in Jesus’ favor. He was mistaken. Giving predators a taste of their prey’s blood in the hope that it might satisfy their demand for consumption is idiotic. He may as well have tried to satisfy a ravenous wolf by giving it a lamb’s throat. One bite never can satisfy wolfish gluttony.

This bargaining round between Jew and Roman was no advantage to the Victim; whoever won, Jesus would lose. The decisive resolve of the Jewish Coalition was pitted against the

posturing bluff of the Roman Governor. Pilate lost, as he would
the rest of