Jesus leaving the Praetorium.

Early in the morning Jesus was led to Pilate and charged with Treason against the Emperor in asserting Himself a King. His accusers were the foremost Jews. Pilate realised the malice of the charge, to secure the death of an inoffensive person. Learning that Jesus was from Galilee, he sought to rid himself of the responsibility by sending Him to King Herod. But Herod would have nothing to do with Jesus. After his soldiers had mocked Jesus, He was returned to Pilate.

Pilate sought to release Jesus, and to satisfy the clamor, ordered Him to be scourged. But this did not satisfy the mob, which cried, « Crucify Him! » Finally, Pilate exclaimed, « Ecce Homo! » — Behold the Man! You have no other Jew His equal! Would you crucify Him? The mob cried the more persistently, « Crucify Him! »

The world looks with a measure of reverence upon Jesus, but still He is far from the human ideal. Neither are the footstep followers of Jesus the world’s ideals. They with Jesus are counted peculiar. As St. John wrote, « As He is, so are we (despised) in this world ». — 1 John 3:1; 4:17.

SPRINGING FROM THE WORD OF GOD

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