

The Predicament of Pilate

Text: Luke 23:1-25

Introduction:

1. Here was a man who was torn between the conviction of his heart and the cry of the multitude.
 2. His heart said, "He is innocent". The crowd said, "Crucify Him!".
- I. HIS CRUCIAL PRIVILEGE - vs. 1, - read. "led him unto Pilate."

A. A face to face encounter with Jesus will have a lasting effect on anyone.

1. Some will harden their hearts and reject Him.

Heb. 3:15, "To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts,..."

2. Some will see Him as Saviour and receive Him.

John 1:12, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

B. One day all will stand before Him face to face and gave an account.

1. The saved at the Judgment Seat of Christ not for ^{to} salvation but ^{to} determine rewards will receive or not receive. *-See Rom 14:10 "All"*

2. The unsaved at the Great White Throne - Rev. 20:11-15.

II. HIS COMPELLING QUESTION - vs. 3, read - "Art thou the King of the Jews?"

A. Jesus answered, "Thou sayest it"

1. Matthew 16:13-16 - "The Son of God" *Read*

2. ~~John 3:18~~ - A heavenly king - *Read*

B. The first coming of Christ was to provide salvation but His second coming will provide a King.

1. He will rule from David's throne - Luke 1:30-33.

2. He will rule with a rod of iron. - Isa. 11:4

III. HIS CANDID CONFESSION, vs. 4, read - "I find no fault in this man."

A. Any honest man will have to give the same answer.

1. I Peter 2:22 - read, "no sin"
2. Hebrews 4:15 - read, "without sin"

B. If Jesus was a sinner then he could not be a saviour.

1. He would have been a spotted lamb.

2. He would have died a sinner's death.

3. Paul said, See I Cor. 15:12-14. *He would not of been Resurrection*

IV. HIS COWARDLY EVASION - vs. 5-12 - read.

vs. 7, "...he sent him to Herod..."

A. People today are still trying to evade a decision about Jesus by sending Him away.

1. From their minds.

2. From their presence.

3. When the Apostle Paul witnessed to Felix the governor, Felix replied in Acts 24:25, "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."

B. If Jesus thought He was divine and wasn't then He was a maniac.

If He pretended to be the saviour and was not then He was a fraud.

But if He is who He said that He was then we should receive Him without hesitation.

1. Investigate the facts - Paul's testimony.

See I Cor. 15:1-7

Centurion's testimony at the cross - "Truly this man was the Son of God"

Thomas's testimony after resurrection "My Lord and my God."

John the Baptist - "Behold the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world"

2. Investigate His character.

He healed the sick, lame, blind, etc.

He raised the dead.

He controlled the elements - wind, sea, etc.

He rebuked the self-righteous.

He was tempted but he was without sin.

3. Don't take someone else's word.

V. HIS CONCILIATORY PROPOSAL - vs. 16, read. "I will therefore chastise him, and release him."

A. Pilate thought chastisement would appease the people.

1. His own conscience told him to release Jesus.

B. Many today are still trying to plan a way to avoid a decision.

1. Some substitute religion and good works.

2. Some engross themselves in the things of the world.

C. The question still remains "what will ye do with Jesus?"

VI. HIS CONDEMNING DECISION, vs. 24, read. - "And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required."

A. They required crucifixion for Jesus.

1. Crucifixion was reserved for the vilest offenders.

2. It was a curse for a man to die on a cross (tree).
See Gal. 3:13

B. He died on that cross which really belonged to another.

*Barabbas, a murderer, seditionist, robber.

*Barabbas picture of all sinners who Christ died in their place. *for*

1. Isa. 53:5 - read, "for our transgression"

2. Galatians 2:20 - read, "gave himself for me"

3. I Peter 3:18 - read, "the just for the unjust"