



Luke 23:1-25 – Jesus stands trial before Pilate.

In the last week of Jesus' life, there are a few characters (people) that are very key players leading up to the Crucifixion. *One of them is named Pilate!*

### 1. Who is Jesus?

- In Matthew 16:13-18 - "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God!"
- In Luke 23:1-3, Pilate asks Jesus who He is! "Are you the king of the Jews?" // "Jesus replied, "You have said it."
- Pilate starts out in verse 4 by saying that he sees nothing wrong with Jesus!
- The Jewish leaders were angry! Jesus then gets sent to Herod.
- Herod began mocking Jesus and ridiculing Him. They mockingly put a royal robe on Jesus and sent Him back to Pilate.
- **The Bible says that Herod and Pilate...who were enemies...became friends that day!**  
\*\**What you now have is an unholy alliance against the Holy One!*\*\*
- Verse 14 – Pilate still finds Jesus innocent. / Verse 15 "Nothing this man has done calls for the Death Penalty."
- Verse 16 – "So I will have him flogged, and then release him."
- Jeremiah 17:9 – "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and is **DESPERATELY WICKED.**"
- Would you have an innocent man beaten by 39 lashes with a whip that has 9 tails of lead tips on it? *That is 351 open lash wounds! Jesus took that for you!*
- **Pilate is a crowd pleaser!** He does not believe that Jesus is the Messiah!
- Luke 23:18 – The crowd was very angry at Pilate and yells to murder Jesus!
- **WOW** - They want an actual convicted murderer released named Barabbas and want Jesus killed!
- Luke 23:20-25 – Pilate sentences Jesus to die! But, I believe that Jesus was dealing with Pilate's heart! Why? Verse 20!
- But...

## 2. What Pilate did to Jesus revealed his true heart!

- **Luke 23:24 – 25** – Pilate sentences Jesus to death and releases a convicted murderer!
- Pilate showed what his heart and life were really like right here once again...**wicked!**
- He **LOOKS** like he is sympathetic, but he is actually a wicked man!
- He caves into the crowd and political pressure! He was Governor! *He did not want to cause an uproar in his region!*
- He had no excuse or evidence to have Jesus flogged let alone die!
- **Mark 15:15** – He was all about **satisfying / pacifying** the crowd!
- **John 19:12** – He was also **afraid** that he would get in trouble...black mailed!
- **It is a true tragedy when we fail to recognize the Truth!** Jesus is the Truth! **John 14:6**
- Pilate denied the Truth by his very own actions...by denying Jesus!
- **James 4:17!** Pilate missed his opportunity to honor God by failing to do right!

## A. Interesting...3 different times Pilate declared Jesus not guilty!

- But, the pressure of **PUBLIC DEMAND** caused him to cave into wickedness again!
- **Max Lucado** – “Pilate thought that he could avoid making a choice. He washed his hands of Jesus. He climbed on the fence and sat down. But, in not making a choice, Pilate made a choice. Rather than ask for God’s grace, he asked for a bowl. Rather than invite Jesus to stay, he sent him away. Rather than hear Christ’s voice, he heard the voice of the people.”
- **Matthew 27:19** – “Pilate sitting in the judgment seat...” / “Pilate’s wife begs him to leave Jesus alone as he is innocent.”
- **Matthew 27:22-26** – Pilate washes his hands of Jesus!
- **Verse 24** – The bowl of washing becomes a bowl GUILTY!
- By washing his hands of Jesus, Pilate actually condemns himself of innocent blood!
- See, Pilate declared that he was innocent of this man’s (Jesus) blood on his hands! But, actually, Pilate was guilty with blood on his hands that he would never be able to wash off...for Eternity!

## Closing: Everyone one of us must decide what we are going to do with Jesus!

- A person might be able to wash their hands in front of everyone with Jesus...but the heart still remains guilty!
- **The Question is this today** – “**What Are You Going To Do With Jesus?**”
- See, there is no amount of water that can wash your guilt away! It is actually only by the precious **blood** of Jesus Christ!
- **The irony in all of this?** The very blood that Pilate decided to spill was the very blood that forgives all sin and he missed it!
- **What do we learn from Pilate?** *A river runs crooked by following the line of least resistance!*
- **The Holy Spirit** gives a person the power to not satisfy the crowd, but follow Jesus!
- Pilate tried to let everyone else decide for him what to do with Jesus.
- You have to decide what you are going to do with Jesus today.