

Pilate's Question

Matthew 27:11-22

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11 And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

12 And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

13 Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?

14 And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

15 Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would.

Matthew 27:11-22 - continued

16 And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas.

17 Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you?

Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

18 For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

Matthew 27:11-22 - continued

20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

21 The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.

22 Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

Introduction

A. How did we get here?

Mark 10:33

Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:

Introduction

B. Pilate's plight

- 1. The attitude of his prisoner (vv 12-14)**
- 2. The advice of his wife (v 19)**
- 3. The anger of the Jews**

John 19:12

And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.

I. It is A Personal Question

A. A decision Pilate would rather avoid

Acts 24:25

And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

I. It is A Personal Question

B. The pressures and forces that press upon his mind

1. His notable prisoner, Barabbas

Some think only of the desperate needing Christ

2. His nervous wife

Some think only the emotionally disturbed need Christ

3. His noisy crowd

Let the crowd decide - some still do that

II. It Is A Question That Demands Action

A. Pilate and his wash basin

Matthew 27:24

When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

II. It Is A Question That Demands Action

B. This is a question on which you must decide

1. You can decide to receive Him or reject Him

John 5:43

I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

II. It Is A Question That Demands Action

B. This is a question on which you must decide – continued

2. You can decide to obey Him or disobey Him

Joshua 24:15

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

II. It Is A Question That Demands Action

B. This is a question on which you must decide – continued

3. You can decide to openly confess Him or deny Him

Matthew 10:32-33

32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

II. It Is A Question That Demands Action

B. This is a question on which you must decide – continued

4. You can make Him Lord of your life or slight Him

Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Luke 6:46

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

III. It Is A Question About Jesus

A. All other decisions dwarfed by this one

Mark 8:35-37

35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

III. It Is A Question About Jesus

B. The question the whole human race must answer

John 3:16-18

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

III. It Is A Question About Jesus

C. Only about Jesus

Acts 4:10-12

10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Choose Between Christ And Barabbas Today!