

Morning Sermon April 19, 2015  
"Pilate Meets the KING of Kings"  
Luke 23:1-25

YOU? He could have been thinking (sympathetically) that truth is a relatively worthless thing in a sin-filled world? Yet, he is convinced that Jesus is innocent!

1. Pilate's first and lasting impression of Jesus, He is innocent –

<sup>NKJ</sup> Luke 23:1 Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate.

<sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King." <sup>3</sup> Then Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered him and said, "It is as you say." <sup>4</sup> So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man." (Luke 23:1-4 NKJ)

1. Luke indicates Pilate came to a rather QUICK JUDGMENT in regard to Jesus, which in my mind is quite possible, why?

- A. He sees Jesus' demeanor: He is gentle, kind and calm
- B. He see the demeanor of Jesus' adversaries: out for blood

2. Yet, if we look at John's Gospel there was at least a bit more questioning –

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" <sup>35</sup> Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." <sup>37</sup> Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." <sup>38</sup> Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all. (John 18:33-38 NKJ)

- A. Jesus' words, that His kingdom was not of this world, may have contributed to Pilate's Judgment of innocence
- B. His question to Jesus "what is truth?" could have been asked sarcastically, or thoughtfully or even sympathetically, like 'what will truth do for You, now? You have the Jews ready to crucify

3. Jesus' innocence was something MANY were convinced of:

A. Judas, His ex-Apostle & betrayer was convinced of it –

<sup>3</sup> Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, <sup>4</sup> saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!" (Matthew 27:3-4 NKJ)

B. Pilate's wife was convinced of it, He was "just" –

<sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him." (Matthew 27:19 NKJ)

C. The fox, Herod, a wicked man and one who was even Pilate's enemy agreed with Pilate regarding Christ's innocence –

<sup>12</sup> That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, <sup>14</sup> said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him;

<sup>15</sup> "no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. (Luke 23:12-15 NKJ)

D. Most importantly, God was and is convinced of Jesus' innocence and righteousness –

And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22 NKJ)

It was God Who gave Pilate's wife her terrible dream –

Ultimately God proves Jesus' innocence by His resurrection –

4. The proclamation of Jesus' innocence is something Pilate repeats 3 times –

<sup>4</sup> So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man." (Luke 23:4 NKJ)

I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; (Luke 23:14 NKJ)

<sup>22</sup> Then he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go." (Luke 23:22 NKJ)

5. *Jesus' innocence, His sinlessNESS, is repeated often because we NEED to hear about it, we need to know it –*

*"Guilty, vile, and helpless we; spotless Lamb of God was He;*

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29 NKJ)

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. (Exodus 12:5 NKJ)

*II. Pilate's greatly, wrong desire in regard to Jesus was to just get rid of HIM –*

1. *I believe there was a kind of FEAR in Pilate of Jesus*

A. *Because of his wife's dream – Matthew 27:19*

B. *Because of his own conscience, he knew that Jesus was innocent, therefore allowing Him to be killed was just plain wrong, this is why Pilate washes his hands –*

<sup>24</sup> When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." (Matthew 27:24 NKJ)

C. *Jesus is even compassionate toward him in this regard –*

<sup>11</sup> Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." <sup>12</sup> From then on Pilate sought to release Him, (John 19:11-12 NKJ)

2. *Yet, his (Pilate's) response to the fear he has in regard to Jesus is all wrong –*

A. *He tried to pass Jesus to Herod –*

<sup>6</sup> When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. <sup>7</sup> And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. (Luke 23:6-7 NKJ)

B. *Jesus in Pilate's mind is ultimately reduced to being just a PROBLEM, a big one, he want to get rid of –*

<sup>12</sup> From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar." (John 19:12 NKJ)

*Pilate may have had some "fear" of Jesus, but more of Caesar!*

*III. What Pilate misses, what he underestimates, what he minimizes; is Jesus' POWER, the power of morality, the power of truth, the power of God –*

1. *Jesus had been captured, beaten and would be beaten MORE and crucified, yet there was a strength in the way HE handled Himself that Pilate both saw, (it frightened him) but also didn't see, it was not enough in Pilate's eyes to change his action!*
2. *Pilate saw ROME, Caesar and heard the mob yelling "crucify Him, Crucify Him!" Ultimately for Pilate, these things outweighed Jesus! They outweighed for Pilate even what he KNEW was right – "I find no fault in this Man."*

<sup>20</sup> Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them.

<sup>21</sup> But they shouted, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" <sup>22</sup> Then he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go." <sup>23</sup> But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they requested. (Luke 23:20-24 NKJ)

*It is **LOUD** vs Truth! It is **POWER** vs Truth!*

*It is the entire world arrayed against our Lord Jesus Christ. They are arrayed to impress. They are arrayed to scare, to be loud and to seem powerful! Yet, they are paper tigers, and Jesus (as humble as HE may seem) wins in the end! It is best to be on His side –*

*Acts 4:15-31; Psalm 2*

<sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him. (Psalm 2:12 NKJ)

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