



MESSAGE NOTES  
March 28, 2010

Week 4  
THE VERDICT: Pilate's Decision

As we come to the 4th message in our series, we look at a man who played an unwilling and tragic part in the murder of Jesus Christ: Pontius Pilate. The bringing of Jesus Christ by the religious leaders put him in a difficult spot. What would he do with this One called Jesus?

Pilate becomes a vivid example for us of someone who tried to stay neutral, who attempted to remain non-committal in his relationship to the Son of God. From his decision, or lack of it, we can learn some valuable lessons about our relationship to Jesus Christ.

**I. PILATE'S DILEMMA:**

- A. The attempts of Pilate to free Jesus.
  1. Pilate didn't want to shed \_\_\_\_\_ blood.
  2. Pilate's wife had a \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus.
  3. Jesus' conduct \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- B. The real dilemma: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**II. PILATE'S DECISION:**

- A. Pilate tries to side-step the responsibility.
  1. Declare a \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. Change the \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. A \_\_\_\_\_ exchange.
  4. Offers non-\_\_\_\_\_ punishment.
  5. Attempted to \_\_\_\_\_ with the mob.
- B. Pilate "washes his hands" and loses so much.

**III. THREE LESSONS TO LEARN:**

- A. We too must answer two questions:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ ?
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ will I \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- B. What deciding for Jesus means:
  1. Deciding for Jesus means \_\_\_\_\_ of self.
  2. Deciding for Jesus means \_\_\_\_\_ to the King.
  3. Deciding for Jesus means a fresh \_\_\_\_\_ & eternal \_\_\_\_\_.

## **SCRIPTURE TEXT**

### **Matthew 27:11-26**

Jesus stood in front of the governor, Pilate. The governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Yes, I am," Jesus answered. <sup>12</sup>While the chief priests and leaders were accusing him, he said nothing. <sup>13</sup>Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear how many charges they're bringing against you?" <sup>14</sup>But Jesus said absolutely nothing to him in reply, which amazed the governor. <sup>15</sup> At every Passover festival the governor would free one prisoner whom the crowd wanted. <sup>16</sup>At that time there was a well-known prisoner by the name of Barabbas. <sup>17</sup>So when the people gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which man do you want me to free for you? Do you want me to free Barabbas or Jesus, who is called Christ?" <sup>18</sup>Pilate knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because they envied him.

<sup>19</sup>While Pilate was judging the case, his wife sent him a message. It said, "Leave that innocent man alone. I've been very upset today because of a dream I had about him."

<sup>20</sup>But the chief priests and leaders persuaded the crowd to ask for the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. <sup>21</sup>The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to free for you?" They said, "Barabbas." <sup>22</sup>Pilate asked them, "Then what should I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?" "Crucify him!" they all said. <sup>23</sup>Pilate asked, "Why? What has he done wrong?" But they began to shout loudly, "Crucify him!" "Crucify him!"

<sup>24</sup>Pilate saw that he was not getting anywhere. Instead, a riot was breaking out. So Pilate took some water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. He said, "I am innocent of this man's blood. Do what you want!" <sup>25</sup>All the people answered, "The responsibility for killing him will rest on us and our children." <sup>26</sup>Then Pilate freed Barabbas for the people. But he had Jesus whipped and handed over to be crucified.

*Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, God's Word Translation.  
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## **ADDITIONAL NOTES**