

Some day we will come face to face with him, and we will learn the same lesson as Pilate. Someone has preached the truth to you... someone has made an appeal for you to consider Jesus. And we might listen as Pilate, and Jesus stands there even as he stands today. What hindered Pilate from making this great decision. We might say self-interest, thinking of what he might lose, but the tragedy of standing before Jesus and he is the one that will make the decision.

Too many men think they can leave the question open and drift awhile. Pilate thought that he might pass the question on. He thought that after sending Jesus to Herod that he would never be faced again with the company of Jesus. But today Jesus stands before you pleading for a decision. And you will either give him a cross or a throne as you face him.

You may let him stand without a word of recognition.

You can thrust him back, tell him to stand aside.

You may merely look upon him. *Just Never attend Church, has sermon,*

open Bible, Confess, Sinner at children's faith still He must face Jesus. go to business get busy in life's stream of pursuit, pleasure, sin, still have Jesus to reckon with.

VI. What does it matter?

Rev: 20: 11-15

Does it matter at all what we do with Jesus? Why of course it matters in your own personal life... in your own (matter of salvation, for where will you spend eternity?) I t depends upon what you do with Jesus today. In the (Jerry McCalley) Mission in New York city, a motto reads, "If I should die tonight, where would I go?" What you do with Jesus, determines where you will go.

Who is to answer this question for us?

When should I decide this question?

After awhile when you stand before Christ, he will perhaps say, there is a man whom I called, a woman whose soul I appealed to. They would not come to any of my ways. They had many opportunities of salvation, depart I never knew you.

Bless God, That Day has not yet arrived.

What Jesus wants for is action - Believe - leave all -

except a man deny - follow me -

Lord what will now have me to do? Pilate has been dead all these years - yet He faces Jesus!

5th Nov - Nov. 16, 55 P.M.

7th Nov - Aug 12, 56 - A.M.

I. Pilate

As we look back over history, we realize that perhaps all of the Roman rulers and governors would be forgotten, except the name of Pilate. This Roman leader of excellent birth, also of education, will be remembered until the end of time. They had prejudice naturally against the Jews, and as a Roman ruler, he held a iron hand over the people, if he had to depend upon military power, he would call out his soldiers. Even Pilate with all of his faults, we think that Jesus made some sort of an appeal to him, concerning the truth. Perhaps Pilate had been thinking about changing from the pagan way of worship, but when he comes face to face with Jesus alone, it is then that we understand Pilate was more concerned with power.

As a great deal of history has been written in courts, so here we find that truth is before the bar of judgment and is being put to the supreme test. Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent and that he was not guilty of death, and that he should have been allowed to go free, but he is the common type of individual today. A fruitless, religious experience. Few men would betray Jesus, like Judas. Few men would plot against him, but every day there are men who refuse to face the claims of Christ, and committ themselves to him. Pilate was anxious to keep his position as a politician, he was anxious to keep order in his part of the Roman empire... he was also anxious to get rid of Jesus.

II. Many questions

What could he do with Jesus would be a good question. Do something with him he must, he could not evade the question... he could not escape it. Even neutrality would not be sufficient... he could not turn away from Jesus and walk off.

Who could decide the question for Pilate? What shall I do with Jesus? There is but one somebody in all the world... Pilate could not allow his (foes) to decide it... he could not allow his (friends) to decide it... certainly it was in the hands of Pilate to make a big decision.

III. Pilate faced a great conflict.

Here was a conflict between truth and power. Pilate was in a place of authority, and would he ignore truth to retain his power? It is the tragedy of history that small men with small minds have sought to impose their judgments upon the thinking and actions of other men. Pilate must be measured. He was afraid of what men would say to him. Pilate was not a great man of strength, of a strong soul... of a solid character, but he was in the arena with a great conflict... would truth prevail, or would truth be defeated? Pilate looked at things through the physical eye, and determined that he would follow the currents of the time instead of standing up for the truth. Pilate believed that Jesus was innocent... he had power to release him... yet he sentenced him to die. Why? Because Pilate wanted to stand in with Caesar... he wanted to satisfy the people... he wanted to be popular... he sought the easy way ~~right~~ out. Pilate trifled with the truth, in that sought to give Jesus an opportunity to back down, but Jesus could not renounce his convictions, and here Pilate was in the midst of a great conflict.

IV. Pilate tries to get free

Pilate uses all of his skill to shift and to work out some scheme by which he could personally be free from the responsibility that had been placed upon him to render judgment. But he found that it was not easy, for he sent Jesus first to the Sanhedrin, and he felt like they could settle the issue. But Jesus came back to him.

He sent Jesus to Herod, and felt like that he had escaped Jesus, but Jesus came back to him

He decided to scourge him and to put stripes upon him, feeling this would awaken pity in the hearts of the accusers and would also soften the heart of Jesus to renounce his position. He had them to mock him and to crown him with thorns, but this did not rid Pilate of the responsibility.

At last, Pilate tried as a last bid when he gave them the choice of Barabbus or Jesus. And he discovered that these blood-thirsty people would still put him to death. This was an inescapable effort.

Pilate did not ask for his trial. It was thrust upon him... he found Jesus upon his hands, and he did not know what to do about it. Pilate tried to evade the issue, he tried to get the Jews to try him... he tried to get Herod to try him. He tried to please the people by releasing a criminal. And as his last effort to free himself, he asked that question, What shall I then do with Jesus? Even after this fatal question, he goes off to wash his hands, hoping to rid his conscience of the whole matter.

Providence of that good toward P.

V. The question changed

We all are familiar with Pilate's question, What shall I then do with Jesus?, but the question which Pilate faces today, is what will Jesus do with me. These questions have bothered men down through the ages. We cannot escape Jesus. On the judgment floor, Pilate may try to evade the issue. He may say, I didn't want to hurt you, I didn't want to get rid of you. He may try to pass the responsibility on to somebody else. But after Pilate had made all these excuses, there still stands Jesus.

Try as we may, we cannot escape Jesus. We can ignore, we can admire him, but that is not enough. We can reject him, we can crucify him. we will still have Jesus on our hands, whether we want him or not..

We don't want to be bothered. We want to gamble, drink, lie and steal. We don't like the preacher, we don't like the church. We've tried religion and it doesn't work. We may give all of our excuses, but we cannot get rid of Jesus.