

A SERMON SERIES FOR EASTER 2005
The People of the Easter Story: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
Message One- Pilate: Refusal of the Christ
Matt. 27:1, 2, 11-26; Luke 23:3-15
Dr. Greg Tyree, BBC, AM, March 6, 2005

INTRODUCTION:

Matt. 27:1, 2, 11-26:

¹When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. ²And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" So Jesus said to him, "It is as you say." ¹²And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. ¹³Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" ¹⁴But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly.

¹⁵Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. ¹⁶And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy. ¹⁹While 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." ²⁰But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!" ²²Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" ²³Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!" ²⁴When 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." ²⁵And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children." ²⁶Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

Luke: 23:3-15:

³Then Pilate asked Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?” He answered him and said, “*It is as you say.*” ⁴So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no fault in this Man.” ⁵But they were the more fierce, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place.”

⁶When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. ⁷And 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. ⁸Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. ⁹Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. ¹⁰And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. ¹¹Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. ¹²That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

¹³Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, ¹⁴said 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; ¹⁵“no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him.

PROPOSITION: In Pilate’s refusal of the Christ we learn six truths that illustrate his dark side, and reveal the dangers we must avoid when regarding the Savior of Easter.

I. PILATE LACKED CONVICTION. Luke 23:6-12.

⁶When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. ⁷And 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. ⁸Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. ⁹Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. ¹⁰And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. ¹¹Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. ¹²That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

A. He Was Unconverted.

B. He Was Unconcerned.

II. PILATE LEANED TOWARD COMPROMISE. Matt. 27:19-21.

¹⁹While 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." ²⁰But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹The governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" They said, "Barabbas!"

A. He Lacked Character.

B. He Liked Convenience.

III. PILATE LISTENED TO THE CROWD. Matt. 27:22-24.

²²Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" ²³Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!" ²⁴When 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."

A. He Wanted Popularity.

B. He Wished for Promotion.

IV. PILATE LOOSED THE CRIMINAL. Matt. 27:25, 26.

²⁵And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children." ²⁶Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

A. He Abused the Law.

B. He Abused the Lord.

V. PILATE LAUDED THE CHRIST. Luke 23:13-15.

¹³Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, ¹⁴said 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; ¹⁵“no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him.

- A. He **Admitted** that Christ was Faultless.
- B. He **Acknowledged** that Christ was Harmless.

VI. PILATE LIVED THROUGH THE CONSEQUENCES. Matt. 27:24, 25.

²⁴When 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.” ²⁵And all the people answered and said, “His blood be on us and on our children.”

- A. He **Gained** Ethical Liability.
- B. He **Gave-Up** Eternal Life.

APPLICATION: The case of Pilate proves that one cannot “ignore” Jesus. One cannot say that he is neutral concerning Jesus. You are either for the Lord or against Him. To cast Him aside, or treat Him as if He doesn’t exist, or to see Him merely as One to bail you out of trouble or get you through hard times, or simply to bless you with good things is to do what Pilate did: condemn Him and wash your hands! What will you do with Jesus?