



**Sermon Title: "Pilate on Trial Before Jesus" (Part 2)**

**Scripture: John 19:1-16**

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Sunday, September 2, 2018

## **INTRODUCTION**

*What is the first mention/hint of the cross, in the Bible? When, in human history, was it first predicted that Jesus would suffer and conquer sin, Satan, hell, and death?*

Judas Iscariot (Matthew 27:4), the wife of Pontius Pilate (Matthew 27:19), the thief on the cross next to Jesus (Luke 23:40-41), and the Roman Centurion who watched Jesus die (Luke 23:47).

At least four times Pilate declared Jesus innocent: John 18:38; 19:4, 6; Matthew 27:24

Note: We can (and must be!) absolutely clear about one thing: Jesus is the innocent, sinless, spotless, perfect, righteous Lamb of God.

Note: This morning we're going to witness the sad attempts of a man who tried everything in his power to avoid making a decision about Jesus, but Pilate would learn the hard way that neutrality is not an option when it comes to Jesus. You must crown Him or kill Him.

## **I. THREE MANEUVERS TO AVOID MAKING A DECISION ABOUT JESUS**

### **A. First Maneuver: Pass the Buck! Make someone else decide!**

1) Pass the Buck Part A: Make Herod Decide!

***Luke 23:4-8 - "Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, 'I find no guilt in this man.' But they were urgent, saying, 'He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.' When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see Him, because he had heard about Him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by Him."***

2) Pass the Buck Part B: Let the People Decide!

## **B. Second Maneuver: Let's compromise! Let's find middle ground!**

### ***John 19:1-3 -***

Note: Jesus is ruthlessly beaten, tortured, and mocked by the Romans soldiers.

*If Pilate knows Jesus is innocent, why order Him to be flogged? What is he hoping to achieve?*

### ***John 19:4-6-11 -***

Note: Jesus speaks to both the Sovereign element and the sinful human element.

### ***Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28; Isaiah 46:9-10 -***

## **C. Third Maneuver: Sheer Desperation! Let's try anything!**

### ***John 19:12 -***

Note: The Jews finally appealed to Pilate's true idol, his true god, self-preservation (love of self).

### ***Matthew 10:39; Philippians 1:21 -***

### ***John 19:13-16 -***

## **D. Application...**

- 1) Consider the love of God; see that it is full, complete, determined, and victorious.
- 2) Consider your sin and idolatry; see that it is cheap, hollow, miserable, and shameful.
- 3) Consider the choice that confronts you today; you must decide what you will do with Jesus.

## **Take Home Questions for Further Study & Reflection & Application...**

1. What is the first mention/prediction of the cross in the Bible?
2. What was the purpose of the animal sacrificial system? What did it point to?
3. Why does Jesus talk with Pilate (verse 11) about authority? What does Jesus want Pilate to know?
4. Why did Pilate grow increasingly fearful and desperate to release Jesus?
5. What do you think were some of the idols Pilate served and worshipped?
6. What are some common idols people worship, serve, and follow today?
7. How do those idols keep us from rightly loving and following Jesus?