

Mt. 27:15-26 **THE SECOND HEARING OF JESUS BEFORE PILATE**

**Introduction:**

Pilate should have set Jesus free. He had found Jesus “not guilty” of the charges made against Him. However, Pilate was afraid that if he released Jesus the Jewish leaders would make trouble for him with Caesar. It appears that his standing with Caesar was not very good at that time.

**I. The question which Pilate had faced .**

- A. Pilate had earlier faced the question: “Am I going to set Him free or will I put to death a man whom I know to be innocent?”
- B. Matthew does not say anything about the trial before Herod.
  - 1. Pilate had thought that he might not have to answer the question after all ; he sent Jesus to Herod thinking that Herod would decide the outcome of the case.
  - 2. Herod was really glad that Pilate had sent Jesus to him for trial. (He was flattered that Pilate had sent the case to him.)
  - 3. He was also curious about Jesus whom he had heard so much about.
  - 4. He thought Jesus might be John the Baptist, whom he had beheaded, and he wanted to find out if He was John. come back to life again.
  - 5. He was also hopeful that Jesus might perform one of His miracles like those he had heard so much about.
  - 6. It did not take Herod long to figure out that Jesus was not John the Baptist. (The moment he laid eyes on Jesus he knew that this was not John the Baptist.)
  - 7. After only a few questions he concluded that Jesus was innocent of the charges laid against Him.
  - 8. Having heard the case and having decided that Jesus was innocent of the charges, he should have set Jesus free, but he didn't.(He chose to send Jesus back to Pilate for a ruling on the case.).
  - 9. Yet there was a streak of cruelty about Herod.
    - a. He put a royal robe on Jesus and in mockery his soldiers paid homage to Jesus as a king.
    - b. If right in the middle of that mockery Herod had realized that Jesus is not only a king but is The King of Kings, that would have shook him up.
  - 10. He sent Jesus back to Pilate with a message saying that he found no fault in Him.

**II. The question which Pilate faced again**

- A. So Pilate once again faced the question: “Am I going to set Jesus free or will I put Him to death even though I know that He is innocent?”
- B. Once again Pilate tried to find some way whereby he could Jesus free with the approval of the Jewish leaders whom he feared would get him in trouble with Caesar.
  - 1. It had become a custom that at the time of the Jewish Passover feast the Roman governor would set a prisoner free and that the governor would allow the people to choose which prisoner would be set free, V. 15.
  - 2. Therefore, Pilate gave the people a choice between Jesus and Barababas, V. 17.
- C. In his own mind Pilate was sure that they would choose to release Jesus ---not Barababas.

1. Jesus was a just man who had done nothing but good for the people. (He had healed hundreds, perhaps thousands.)
  2. Barabbas was a cruel viscous scoundrel who had brutally killed many people.
  3. If they would choose to release Jesus then they would not be able to accuse him to Caesar for releasing Him, because it would be by their own choice that He was released.
  4. So he returned back inside to await their decision.
- D. While he waited there was an urgent message from his wife.
1. She said, "Have nothing to do with this just man."
  2. She knew that he had to make a ruling, but she did not want him to rule against this just man and put Him to death. .
  3. Some have speculated that she had realized that Jesus is the Christ and had gotten saved, but that is doubtful. .
  4. In a dream she had been warned and she was afraid that something bad would happen to her, her husband and her family if Pilate put this just man to death.
- E. But Pilate thought he had the matter settled without putting Jesus to death.
1. He was confident that the people would choose to release Jesus instead of Barabbas.
  2. He could hardly believe his ears when they said, "Release Barabbas."

### **III. The question which they all faced**

- A. Pilate, at this point, was still not willing to order Jesus to be put to death
1. Yet he feared what would happen if the Jewish leaders sent word to Caesar that he had released a man who was said to be a known troublemaker and who was said to be guilty of treason against Caesar.
  2. So instead of making a ruling in the case against Jesus, he asked the Jewish leaders, "***what then will I do with Jesus?***" (He tried to get out of making the decision by asking them to make the decision.)
  3. The Jewish leaders were happy to tell him what to do with Jesus.
    - a. From the beginning they had made it clear that they wanted Him to be put to death.
    - b. Their response was emphatic: "**Crucify Him! Crucify Him!**".
- B. Then Pilate washed his hands before them all and announced, "***His blood be on you and your children.***" (And so it was for they were the ones who insisted that Jesus be put to death.)
- C. Then he released Barabbas and ordered that Jesus be crucified. (Washing his hands did not free him from guilt in the matter.(He was the one who made the final decision.)
1. Barabbas was exceedingly glad that Jesus was crucified because if Jesus had not been crucified, then almost certainly he would have been put to death, maybe even by crucifixion. .
  2. It grieves me deeply to think of the horrible suffering that Jesus went through for us.
  3. Now listen: I am ashamed to say so, but I am also glad that Jesus was crucified.
    - a. If He had not been crucified I would burn in the fires of hell forever..
    - b. I am guilty of sin after sin after sin and I deserve to go to hell.
    - c.. But because Jesus was crucified and I have trusted Him to save my soul I have been set free.
    - d. (I have been saved by the blood of the crucified One."

### **Conclusion:**

Now you face the question: "**What will you do with Jesus? Will you call on Him and acknowledge your sin and trust Him to save you from your hell ?**"

