

Almost

Acts 26:24-29

Biblical Examples

- Paul's preaching to Agrippa – Acts 26:24-29
 - *Almost* meant Agrippa remained *completely* lost – 26:28
 - We have no record of his *almost* becoming obedience.
- The rich young ruler – Lk. 18:18-25
 - He was faithful to God's commandments, *but* Jesus indicated he had ***almost*** done what was needed for life.
 - He lacked one thing—to sell his stuff and follow Jesus—total commitment!
 - He was almost there...but he chose **death!**
 - This should concern us because we have been blessed with much.

Biblical Examples

- Pilate and Jesus – Lk. 23:13-25
 - Pilate knew Jesus was innocent and wanted to release Him despite the Jews' cries against it – 23:13-12; Mt. 27:18-19
 - Pilate **almost** released Jesus...but he didn't – Lk. 23:23-25
- Shouldn't Pilate get *some* credit for trying?
 - Pilate had the power to release and protect Jesus
 - He could have listened to his wife, his heart, and Jesus...but he didn't!
 - Pilate wanted to please the Jews and maintain his position **MORE** than he wanted to do what was right and release Jesus!

Almost...

Means Satan Wins

In Spiritual matters **almost** means coming **close** to...

- Doing what you know is good/right, but you didn't.
 - It is being *almost* a committed Christian, but falling short of living as a Christian
 - Almost doing what is right is sin – Jas. 4:17
- Standing up for Christ and righteousness, but you didn't.
 - You instead allowed fear to paralyze you, to keep Christ from using you for good in this world
 - Almost means God will reject you – Mk. 8:38

In Spiritual matters **Almost** means coming **Close** to...

- Doing what is needed to overcome sin, but you didn't.
 - Hiding one's sin is death – Jn. 3:19-21
 - Slavery to sin can only be defeated by bringing it into the light – Jas. 5:16
 - There may be many reasons why one may not bring his/her sin into the light
 - Whatever the reason, **almost** means failure to overcome and slavery continues.

Almost is Not the Life of a Christian

- God calls for total commitment—a total, living **sacrifice** of our lives to Him – Rom. 12:1
 - Full commitment is the only spiritual service that pleases God
 - God rightly calls for this based on His **mercies** toward us – Titus 3:3-7
 - If God giving so much to such worthless people doesn't warrant your full commitment, then what does?
- Like Israel of old and those of N.T. times, you have a choice to make – Deut. 30:15-16, 19-20; Acts 2:40-41; 1 Thess. 1:6-8
- **If you so desire**, you can make that **total** commitment, be freed from sin, and faithfully serve to eternal life through Jesus – Heb. 2:14-18