



The Critical Thinking of Pontius Pilate

*“Jesus answered,
‘Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’
Pilate said to Him, ‘What is truth?’”
John 18:37-38*



I. Intellectually Lazy

A. Trying to Escape the Decision

- “It’s Your Law!” (Jn. 18:31)
- “Am I a Jew?” (Jn. 18:35)
- “What is Truth?” (Jn. 18:38)
- “Send Him to Herod!” (Lk. 23:7)
- “Chastise and Release” (Lk. 23:16)
- “Him or Barabbas?” (Mt. 27:17)

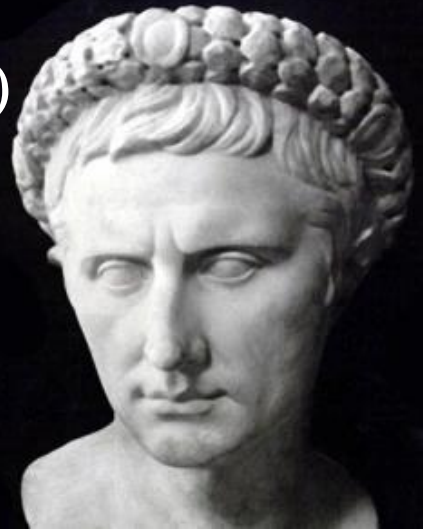


I. Intellectually Lazy

A. Trying to Escape the Decision

B. But He Can't Escape!

- Pilate, Like Us, Must Answer!
- Personal Responsibility (II Cor. 5:10)
 - Not Local Church
 - Not Preacher/Elders
 - Not Family



I. Intellectually Lazy

A. Trying to Escape the Decision

B. But He Can't Escape!

C. What To Do With Jesus? (He. 6:6)

- “Doesn't Apply to Me!” (Ac. 17:30)
- “What is Truth?” (Jn. 8:31-32)
- Pass the Buck (Mt. 27:20)
- Compromise (Mt. 6:24)



II. Ignores Good Advice

A. Pilate's Wife (Mt. 27:19)

- Admirable Quality
- Minority Report
(Nm. 14; Mt. 7:13-14)



II. Ignores Good Advice

A. Pilate's Wife (Mt. 27:19)

B. Mob Rule (Ac. 19:32)



II. Ignores Good Advice

A. Pilate's Wife (Mt. 27:19)

B. Mob Rule (Ac. 19:32)

C. Identifying the Voice of Reason

- Often Calm (Jas. 3:17-18)
- Often Difficult (Jn. 16:33)
- Aligns With God's Word (Pr. 1:7)



III. Doesn't Take Responsibility

A. Washing of Hands (Mt. 27:24)

- Not Deciding is a Decision
- Taking Bad Advice (I Ki. 12)
- Talk is Cheap (Jas. 2:15-17)



III. Doesn't Take Responsibility

A. Washing of Hands (Mt. 27:24)

B. "I Tried!"

- Enough to Feel Justified (Ac. 23:1)
- Defiled Hands (Is. 59:3)



III. Doesn't Take Responsibility

A. Washing of Hands (Mt. 27:24)

B. "I Tried!"

C. Pilate Knew the Truth

- Admissions of Innocence
- Neglected Doing Good (Jas. 4:17)



III. Doesn't Take Responsibility

A. Washing of Hands (Mt. 27:24)

B. "I Tried!"

C. Pilate Knew the Truth

D. Recognize Difficulty

- Doesn't Justify Actions
- Taking Responsibility



IV. Difficulty and Judgment

A. Excuses Before the Throne?

- “But my preacher said...”
(II Ti. 2:15)
- “But all my friends believe...”
(I Cor. 15:33)
- “But I was raised...” (Mt. 10:37)
- “But I had no other choice...”
(Mt. 16:24)



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*“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him
deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me.”*

Mt. 16:24

