

I, Pilate

Till Plains 4/3/2021

Text: Mark 15:15 So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged *Him*, to be crucified.

“It would be well to spend a thoughtful hour each day reviewing the life of Christ from the manger to Calvary. We should take it point by point and let the imagination vividly grasp each scene, especially the closing ones of His earthly life. By thus contemplating His teachings and sufferings, and the infinite sacrifice made by Him for the redemption of the race, we may strengthen our faith, quicken our love, and become more deeply imbued with the spirit which sustained our Saviour. If we would be saved at last we must all learn the lesson of penitence and faith at the foot of the cross. Christ suffered humiliation to save us from everlasting disgrace. He consented to have scorn, mockery, and abuse fall upon Him in order to shield us. It was our transgression that gathered the veil of darkness about His divine soul and extorted the cry from Him, as of one smitten and forsaken of God. He bore our sorrows; He was put to grief for our sins. He made Himself an offering for sin, that we might be justified before God through Him. Everything noble and generous in man will respond to the contemplation of Christ upon the cross.” – Ellen White, *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 374.

The Trial

Reference verses: Matthew 27:2, 11-14; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28-38

1. What crime was brought against Jesus?

The Choice

Reference verses: Matthew 27:15-28; Mark 15:6-17; Luke 23:17-25; John 18:39-19:16

2. The people were given a choice between Barabbas and Jesus. Why was Pilate’s choice even more critical?

Reference verses: Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:38; John 19:19-22

3. Why is the inscription placed above Jesus so important to the story of Pilate?

“A higher power than Pilate or the Jews had directed the placing of that inscription above the head of Jesus.” – Ellen White, *Desire of Ages*, 745.

The Tomb

Reference verses: Matthew 27:45-28:4, 11-15; Mark 15:33-44; Luke 23:44-53; John 19:31-40

4. How did the events surrounding the tomb lead to Pilate’s final failure?

“Pilate was as unwilling as they for the body of Jesus to remain upon the cross.” – *Desire of Ages*, 771.

“Meanwhile the report of Christ’s resurrection had been carried to Pilate. Though Pilate was responsible for having given Christ up to die, he had been comparatively unconcerned. While he had condemned the Saviour unwillingly, and with a feeling of pity, he had felt no real compunction until now. In terror he now shut himself within his house, determined to see no one. But the priests made their way into his presence, told the story which they had invented, and urged him to overlook the sentinels’ neglect of duty. Before consenting to this, he himself privately questioned the guard. They, fearing for their own safety, dared not conceal anything, and Pilate drew from them an account of all that had taken place. He did not prosecute the matter further, but from that time there was no peace for him.” – *Desire of Ages*, 782.

5. What choices did Pilate have to make that we still need to make today?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____