

# PILATE

## Int.

1. Aim: To show how Pilate failed in his life and why we must avoid the same mistakes.
2. Texts – Mt. 27:1-2, 11-26 Mk. 15:1-15 Lk. 23:1-26 Jn.18:28-40 ; 19:1-22
3. One of the most tragic figures on the pages of the Bible is Pilate. His name lives on in infamy. - evil reputation
  - a. The sad thing about Pilate is that he was his own undoing.
  - b. What Pilate was, we may be unless we study his character and learn to avoid his mistakes.
  - c. We do not really know Pilate until we find him in the presence of Christ. There we learned what he was.
4. It is also true of us. When we come face to face with Christ we show what we are and where we stand.

## Discussion

- I. **PILATE HAD SOME GOOD IN HIM**
  - A. He tried to persuade the people to let Christ go free. He did not want to see him crucified.
  - B. He was better than the ones that cried out for the blood of Christ. But this did not justify him, because he yielded to their cry, and he was then just as guilty as they.

## **II. PILATE TRIED AND FAILED**

- A. We usually think a person is justified if he tries. But Pilate shows that this kind of thinking is not correct.
- B. Pilate tried to save Christ but he did not try hard enough.
  - 1. He did not want to see Christ crucified
  - 2. He had the power and could have saved Christ, if he had used it.
- C. Sometimes our failures are not because we do not try, but because we do not try hard enough. We must put forth enough effort to insure success
  - 1. Some have tried to understand the Bible and have failed. They think because they have put forth a little effort that they are justified in giving up. But we dare not fail except at the cost of our souls.
  - 2. Some have tried to obey the gospel - they put forth enough effort to learn how - but then because of some difficulty did not obey. Remember Pilate was not justified in condemning Christ just because of difficulties.
  - 3. Some have obeyed the gospel and tried to live the Christian life and then quit. They think that because they tried, then they are justified in FAILING. But we dare not fail in living the Christian life.

## **III. WHY PILATE FAILED**

- A. [1] **PILATE PREFERRED SOCIAL STANDING TO SPIRITUAL STABILITY**
  - 1. Mk. 15:15 NKJV "So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged Him, to be crucified."
  - 2. He had rather be accepted by men than to do what was right.
  - 3. How often do we do things that weaken us spiritually just to please the world.

B. [2] **PILATE WAS WILLING TO BE A JUST MAN --- IF HE COULD BE A JUST MAN WITHOUT BEING POOR.**

1. He would do right as long as he did not have to pay to do right
2. It is impossible in a world filled with evil to do right without it costing
3. The person that does right only when it is easy is sure to fail.
4. 1 John 2:15-17

C. [3] **HE VALUED EARTHLY THINGS MORE THAN SPIRITUAL THINGS**

1. When he had to choose between earthly values and spiritual values he chose the earthly.
2. The person that does not recognize that spiritual values are supreme will never succeed in serving God.
3. Spiritual values are the same in proportion to earthly values as the soul is to the body - Mt. 4:4 "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

D. [4] **PILATE WOULD DO RIGHT IF OTHERS WOULD**

1. If he could have gotten the Jews to release Christ he would have been glad to let him go.
2. But his responsibility was not determined by what others did. Justice is an eternal principle and is not decided by a crowd.
3. How often do we think we are justified in our failures to do right because others do not do right.

E. [5] **PILATE REFUSED TO MAKE HIS OWN DECISION ON HIS OWN CONVICTIONS**

1. He permitted numbers and noise to push him back from what he knew was right
2. The numbers and noise were of religious error.
3. Rom. 12:2 Phillips "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves toward the goal of true maturity."

F. [6] **PILATE TRIED TO SHIFT HIS RESPONSIBILITY**

1. He sent Christ to Herod, then the priest, finally to the mob
2. Thus he becomes a creature of schemes and devices.
3. He had enough conscience to wish to shake off responsibility, but not enough to keep him from committing sin. We need to keep our conscience tender and sensitive.

G. [7] **PILATE TRIED TO COMPROMISE**

1. He agreed to scourge Jesus and let him go. But was it just since he knew Christ was innocent?
2. Truth and right cannot be compromised. To try to compromise truth is to pervert it. Did not Pilate change justice to injustice by trying to compromise?

H. [8.] **PILATE CHOSE WORLDLY FRIENDSHIP OVER RIGHT.**

1. When they said you are not Caesar's friend he failed. John 19:12
2. How much better to be right than to have Caesar's friendship! Which can do the most for you and which is needed most?

I. [9] **PILATE FAILED BECAUSE HE DID NOT USE THE STRENGTH AT HAND**

1. His wife tried to help - Mt. 27:19 "When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him."
2. Jesus tried to help. He talked with Pilate but not to Herod. He pointed out to Pilate that he had nothing to fear from him as his kingdom was not of this world.
3. None of us fail without memories of lost opportunities that could have turned defeat into victory.
4. Obeying the gospel, prayers, encouragement, songs, lessons, are encouraging.

J. [10] **PILATE MADE HIS DECISION ON PREJUDICIAL TESTIMONY**

1. The Pharisees were prejudiced, held to traditions.
2. What about you? Are you listening to prejudiced people?

K. [11] **PILATE FAILED TO BE TRUE TO THE LIGHT HE HAD AND THAT LIGHT WAS TURNED INTO DARKNESS.**

1. We can only learn right when we are determined to do right - Jn. 17:17
2. Must have a single eye - Mt. 6:22,23
3. Must have a supreme love for right - I Thes. 2:11,12

L. [12] **PILATE FAILED BECAUSE HE HAD TO ASK OTHERS WHAT TO DO ABOUT LIFE'S MOST VITAL QUESTION**

1. Ask yourself, "What shall I do with Jesus?"
2. It's a personal question. It cannot be answered by others.
3. You must answer. You can't leave this for others.

**CONCLUSION**

1. Pilate was so near to virtue and glory, but missed it all.
2. It is not enough to try, we must succeed!!!
3. Obey the gospel -
4. LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE!

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Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday night July 5, 2009  
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