

" THE TRIAL OF JESUS "



MATTH

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THE TRIAL OF JESUS**MATTHEW 27:1—2, 11—22****INTRODUCTION**

TO USE THE WORD “TRIAL,” IN REFERENCE TO THE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS WHICH CULMINATED IN THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS CHRIST, IS REALLY TO MISAPPLY THE TERM “TRIAL.”

- 1. FOR EIGHT HOURS AFTER HIS ARREST, HE WAS ON THE CROSS.**
- 2. IN THE BRIEF SPACE OF SIX HOURS, HE WAS EXAMINED FIVE TIMES BY FOUR DIFFERENT AUTHORITIES.**
- 3. HE WAS ACCUSED BY WITNESSES WHO CONTRADICTED THEMSELVES.**
- 4. HE WAS CONDEMNED ON A DELIBERATE MISINTERPRETATION OF HIS WORDS.**
- 5. AND HE WAS SENTENCED BY A JUDGE WHO WAS CONVINCED OF HIS INNOCENCE.**

OUR TEXT TODAY BEGINS BY SAYING, “WHEN THE MORNING WAS COME.”

YOU KNOW, CHURCH, THE MORNING IS A GREAT TIME. IT MAY WELL BE THE BEST PART OF THE DAY, BECAUSE THE MORNING OFFERS US ANOTHER CHANCE.

MAYBE THE DAY BEFORE DID NOT GO TOO WELL AND MAYBE THE NIGHT DIDN'T GO TOO WELL, BUT THE MORNING, I TELL YOU, OFFERS US ANOTHER CHANCE.

WHEN THE MORNING WAS DONE, THE PRIESTS, THE SCRIBES AND THE PHARISEES, EXULTING THAT THE END OF THEIR ENEMY WAS AT HAND, LED JESUS, BOUND,

THROUGH THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM TO THE PALACE OF THE GOVERNOR. AS THEY PASSED THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE CITY IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING, THE WORD SPREAD THAT JESUS HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH BY THE SANHEDRIN.

PEOPLE CAME OUT OF THEIR HOMES AND JOINED THE PROCESSION.

MANY PILGRIMS WHO HAD COME TO JERUSALEM FOR THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER, SWELLED THE RANKS OF THE CROWD.

IN HIS SPENDID CHAMBER, PILATE WAS ASLEEP ON HIS COUCH.

HE HAD GUARDS ALL AROUND HIS PALACE BECAUSE PILATE WAS TAKING NO CHANCES WITH ASSINATION.

HE KNEW THE ENMITY THAT THE JEWS BORE TO HIM FOR HIS SCORNFUL AND RUTHLESS ADMINISTRATION.

WHEN THE OFFICER ON WATCH AT THE PALACE SAW THE CROWD GATHER OUTSIDE AND LEARNING WHAT THEY WANTED, WENT TO THE CHAMBER OF PILATE AND AWAKENED HIM, AND TOLD HIM THAT THE JEWS HAD BROUGHT A PRISONER AND THAT THEY WERE CLAMORING FOR AN IMMEDIATE TRIAL.

PILATE CAME AND SAT DOWN IN THE JUDGEMENT SEAT AND JESUS STOOD BEFORE THE GOVERNOR WAITING TO BE JUDGED.

OH, HOW STRANGE! THERE ARE NO IFS, ANDS NOR BUTS ABOUT IT. PILATE HAS BEFORE HIM A PRISONER, THE LIKES OF WHICH HE HAD NEVER HAD TO DEAL WITH BEFORE.

- 1. FOR HERE WE'VE GOT THE CREATURE SITTING IN JUDGEMENT OF THE CREATOR.**

2. HERE YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING STRANGE FOR WE'VE GOT HUMANITY SITTING IN JUDGEMENT OF DIVINITY.
3. WE'VE GOT WEEKNESS SITTING IN JUDGEMENT OF OMNIPOTENCE.
4. WE'VE GOT DEFILEMENT SITTING IN JUDGEMENT OF PURITY.
5. WE'VE GOT THE FINITE SITTING IN JUDGEMENT OF THE INFINITE
6. I TELL YOU, WE'VE GOT SOMETHNG STRANGE HERE FOR WE'VE GOT THE FALSE SITTING IN THE JUDGEMENT OF THE TRUE.

AFTER GAZING IN SILENCE FOR A LITTLE AT JESUS AS HE STOOD THERE BEFORE HIM, PILATE CALLED OUT IN A RINGING, COMMANDING, ROMAN VOICE, WHAT ACCUSATIONS BRING YE AGAINST THIS MAN?"

THE ANSWER CAME, "SIR, IF HE WERE NOT A MALEFACTOR, WE WOULD NOT HAVE DELIVERED HIM UP UNTO THEE."

THEN, AT ONCE, THOSE WHO STOOD ROUND IN THE CROWD TOOK UP THE CRY AND FLUNG THEIR ACCUSATIONS AGAINST JESUS:

1. ONE SAID, "HE PERVERTS THE PEOPL;
2. ANOTHER CRIED *OUT*, "HE FORBIDS THEM TO GIVE TRIBUTE TO CAESAR!"
3. ANOTHER CRIED OUT, "HE CALLS HIMSELF A KING;
4. ANOTHER SAID, "HE SAYS HE CAN TEAR DOWN THE TEMPLE AND BUILD IT AGAIN IN THREE DAYS!"

5. OTHERS CRIED OUT: “HE BREAKS THE LAW OF MOSES AND DISHONOUR THE TRADITIONS OF OUR PEOPLE!!”

IN ANSWER TO THIS CHORUS OF ACCUSATIONS, PILATE SAID “TAKE HIM YOURSELVES AND JUDGE HIM ACCORDING TO YOUR LAW. YOU HAVE A LAW. WHY DO YOU COME HERE TO BOTHER ME?”

THE HIGH PRIEST ANSWERED “IT IS NOT LAWFUL FOR US TO PUT ANY MAN TO DEATH.”

THAT STATEMENT GAVE PILATE TO KNOW THAT THE COUNCIL HAD ALREADY FOUND JESUS GUILTY AND WORTHY OF DEATH.

NOW UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, PILATE MIGHT HAVE GIVEN A QUICK AND FORMAL RATIFICATION OF THEIR VERDICT.

BUT WHEN HE LOOKED AT JESUS, FOR SOME REASON, HE HESITATED.

SPEAKING TO THE OFFICERS AT HIS SIDE, PILATE SAID, “BRING THE PRISONER INSIDE TO MY JUDGEMENT THRONE AND THERE HE ENTERED THE PALACE.

PILATE ASKED JESUS ONLY ONE QUESTION:

- 1. HE ASKED HIM NOTHING ABOUT HIS CREDENTIALS,**
- 2. HE ASKED HIM NOTHING ABOUT HIS RELIGION,**
- 3. HE ASKED HIM NOTHING ABOUT HIS PHILOSOPHY,**
- 4. HE ASKED HIMN NOTHING ABOUT HIS THEOLOGY.**
- 5. THE ONLY ONE QUESTION HE ASKED JESUS WAS,“ARE YOU A KING? DO YOU HAVE ANY MONARCHICAL OR REGAL AMBITIONS? ARE**

YOU COMMITTED TO THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF YOUR NATION? ARE YOU A KING?"

- 6. JESUS ANSWERED PILATE, SAYING, "I AM INDEEDA KING BUT MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD.**
- 7. IN OTHER WORDS, PILATE, MONARCHS FOUNDED IT NOT; PRINCES FORMED IT NOT; MY KINGDOM IS NOT THE CREATION OF A STATE.**
- 8. PILATE, WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT KINGDOM, YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THE IDEA OF TERRITORY;**
- 9. YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THE IDEA OF POWER AS EXPRESSED BY FLEETS AND ARMIES;**
- 10. YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THE IDEA OF LUXURY AND STATE AS DISPLAYED IN PALACES AND CEREMONIES:**
- 11. YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THE IDEA OF SUCCESSION TO A THRONE WHETHER IT BE ELECTIVE OR HEREDITARY.**
- 12. BUT PILATE, IN MY KINGDOM, THERE ARE NONE OF THESE ACCESSORIES.**
- 13. IT IS LIMITED BY NO BOUNDARIES;**
- 14. MY KINGDOM IS CUMBERED BY NO POMP OR INSIGNIA OF AUTHORITY.**
- 15. PILATE, MY KINGDOM IS ONE IN WHICH THE SUBJECTS DO NOT ELECT THEIR KING, BUT RATHER, THE KING ELECTS HIS SUBJECTS.**
- 16. IT IS NOT A KINGDOM IN WHICH ONE KING SUCCEEDS ANOTHER, BUT RATHER, ONE**

IMMORTAL KING REIGNS THROUGH ALL GENERATIONS.

- 17. MY KINGDOM IS NOT IN COMPETITION WITH THE ROMAN GOVERNMENT OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT.**
- 18. MY EMPIRE, MY KINGDOM, IS OVER THE HEART AND IS SATISFIED WITH NOTHING BUT THE CASTING DOWN OF HEART PRIDE, THE VOTING OUT OF HEART SIN AND THE MAINTAINING OF HEART ALLEGIANCE AND DUTY.**
- 19. MY KINGDOM CONTROLS THE WHOLE INNER LIFE UNDERNEATH THE SKIN.**
- 20. IT GIVES THE LAW TO THE CONSCIENCE, THE RULE TO THE JUDGEMENT AND THE CHOICE TO THE WILL.**
- 21. PILATE, IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION, I AM INDEED A KING, BUT MY KINGSHIP IS SPIRITUAL AND I AM NOT IN COMPETITION FOR ANY WORDLY LEADERSHIP.**
- 22. "MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD. I AM HERE TO HEAR WITNESS TO THAT TRUTH."**

PILATE, A STUDENT OF PHILOSOPHY, WAS ARRESTED BY THIS LAST STATEMENT. TRUTH? WHAT IS TRUTH?

LITTLE DID HE REALIZE THAT UTTER TRUTH, ABSOLUTE VERACITY, TOTAL INTEGRITY PERSONIFIED, STOOD BEFORE HIM SHACKLED AND BOUND;

FOR HE, THE CHRIST, THOUGH BOUND BY MEN, COULD SET FREE THE SPIRITS AND SOULS OF TEN THOUSAND TIMES TEN THOUSAND OF THOSE WHO CAME TO TRUST HIM AS THE TRUTH.

"HE THAT MY SON SET FREE IS FREE, INDEED."

WELL, PILATE DID NOT STAY LONG TO HEAR WHAT JESTS MIGHT HAVE SAID AS TO THE NATURE OF TRUTH, BUT HE SUMMONED THE CENTURION AGAIN AND SAID, "TAKE THE PRISONER OUT!"

THIS TIME, INSTEAD OF GOING OUT HIMSELF, PILATE WENT UP TO A BALCONY BETWEEN THE PILLARS OF THE PALACE AND POINTING DOWN TO JESUS WHO STOOD BEFORE THE JUDGEMENT SEAT, CALLED OUT TO THE CROWD, I FIND NO FAULT IN HIM."

BUT BEFORE HE COULD FINISH THE SENTENCE, ANGRY SHOUTS WENT UP:

1. "HE IS A BLASPHEMER
2. HE PERVERTETH THE PEOPLE!
3. HE WOULD DESTROY THE TEMPLE!
4. LET HIM BE CRUCIFIED.
5. HE STIRRETH UP THE PEOPLE THROUGHOUT ALL JUDEA FROM GALILEE TO JERUSALEM."

PILATE CAUGHT THAT WHERE THE CROWD SAID, "FROM GALILEE TO JERUSALEM."

THERE, PERHAPS, WAS A WAY OF ESCAPE FOR HIM.

SINCE THIS JESUS FELLOW IS A GALILEAN, THEN, MAYBE, HE OUGHT TO BE JUDGED BY THE ROMAN DEPUTY OF THAT COUNTRY.

"TAKE HIM TO HEROD!," ORDERED PILATE AND OFF TO HEROD THEY SENT HIM.

JESUS WAS HANDED BACK TO THE ANGRY MOB. THEY PUSHED AND SHOVED HIM.

WHEN THE CRAFTY IMPOSTER WAS INFORMED THAT JESUS WAS TO BE PRESENTED TO HIM; HE *WAS* EXCITED.

1. **THIS HEROD, YOU SEE, WAS THE SON OF THAT OTHER HEROD WHO ORDERED THE SLAUGHTER OF THE INFANTS IN BETHLEHEM AT THE TIME OF CHRIST'S BIRTH.**
2. **THIS HEROD POSSESSED THE SAME LUST AND CRUELTY WHICH HAD CHARACTERIZED HIS FATHER.**
3. **HE SHAMEFULLY REPUDIATED AND THREW ASIDE HIS WIFE IN ORDER TO TAKE THE WIFE OF HIS HALF BROTHER WHO WAS HERSELF, HIS NIECE.**
4. **HE WAS GUILTY OF INCEST, THAT LOWEST IMAGINABLE FORM OF HUMAN IMMORALITY.**
5. **THIS WAS THE RULER BEFORE WHOM THE SON OF GOD WAS DRAGGED.**
6. **THIS WAS THE HEROD WHO HAD HAD JOHN THE BAPTIST IMPRISONED AND THEN LATER, HEROD, HALF DRUNK, HAD JOHN BEHEADED AND HIS BLOOD SPATTERED HEAD WAS PRESENTED TO HIS WIFE.**
7. **HEROD WAS A CRUEL, CUNNING IMPOSTER FROM THE DESERTS OF ARABIA.**
 - a. **HE WAS LESS THAN SCUM FROM THE DREGS OF A DREADFUL FAMILY.**
8. **HEROD GAZED UPON THE BRUISED FACE AND BLOODSTAINED CLOTHES OF JESUS, THE CHRIST.**

NO, HE DID NOT KNOW IT BUT THERE BEFORE HIM STOOD THE KING OF KINGS WHOSE LIFE HIS JEALOUS FATHER HAD TRIED TO SNUFF OUT AS A BABE IN BETHLEHEM.

BUT THOUGH THE EVIL MONARCH QUIZZED JESUS CAREFULLY, THERE IS A CHILLING AND FRIGHTENING SENTENCE WHICH SAYS, "BUT HE ANSWERED HIM NOTHING!"

IT WAS NOT THE FACT THAT HEROD ASKED QUESTIONS WHICH LOCKED THE LIPS OF JESUS INTO IMOBILITY AND SILENCE.

THROUGHOUT HIS MINISTERIAL CAREER, JESUS HAD ENTERTAINED AND REPLIED TO MANY QUESTIONS.

- 1. HE HAD BEEN ASKED, “GOOD MASTER, WHAT SHALL I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?” THE BIBLE SAYS, “AND JESUS ANSWERED.”**
- 2. ONE DAY, HE WAS ASKED BY AN ASPIRING YOUNG LAWYER, “WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?” THE BIBLE SAYS, “AND JESUS ANSWERED.”**
- 3. HE WAS ASKED, “IS IT LAWFUL TO PAY TAX TO CAESAR?” AND JESUS ANSWERED.**
- 4. ON ANOTHER OCASSION, HE WAS ASKED, “BY WHAT AUTHORITY DOEST THOU THESE THINGS? AND JESUS ANSWERED.**

OUT OF ALL THE OTHER MONARCHS AND RULERS JESUS HAD BEEN CARRIED BEFORE DURING HIS TRIAL, HE ANSWERED.

- 1. JESUS ANSWERED ARINAS;**
- 2. HE HAD ANSWERED CAIAPHAS;**
- 3. HE HAD ANSWERED THE SANHEDRIN COUNCIL.**
- 4. BE HAD ANSWERED THE ROMAN GOVERNOR, PILATE.**

BUT HERE BEFORE CRUEL, WICKED, AND LOW DOWN HEROD, THE BIBLE SAYS, “HE OPENETH NOT HIS MOUTH!”

I DON’T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I DON’T WANT TO EVER LIVE TO THE POINT THAT GOD GETS SILENT ON ME;

I DON’T EVER WANT TO GET TO THE POINT THAT GOD WON’T SAY ANYTHING TO ME.

NO! I DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING TO MAKE THE LORD SILENT IN MY SOUL.

LORD, PUNISH ME IF YOU WANT, BUT DON'T BE SILENT.

REBUKE ME BUT, MY GOD, *PLEASE* DON'T BE SILENT.

SPEAK TO ME, JESUS; TELL ME THY WILL,

TO HEROD, I TELL YOU, JESUS OPENED NOT HIS MOUTH, AND WHEN JESUS WOULD NOT SPEAK, HEROD COMMANDED HIS SOLDIERS TO ROBE JESUS IN A WHITE GARMENT.

IT WAS A GESTURE THAT SPOKE MORE LOUDLY THAN ANY ROYAL PROCLAMATION HE MAY HAVE MADE.

AS HE STOOD THERE ADORNED IN THE CLOAK OF JEWISH ROYALTY, FOR JEWISH KINGS WERE ALWAYS UNIQUELY GARBED IN SHINING WHITE, HEROD DECLARED, "THIS IS A KING OF THE JEWS!"

HEROD THEN SHUNTED JESUS BACK TO PILATE WITH THE VERDICT THAT THE DEFENDANT WAS, INDEED, AN INNOCENT MAN.

INCENSED AND ENRAGED BEYOND MEASURE BY THE ENDLESS DELAY IN BRINGING JESUS TO DEATH, THE MOB CROWD RANTED AND RAVED FOR HIS BLOOD.

THEIR SCREAMING AND SHOUTING ROUSED THE RABBLING CROWDS GATHERING FROM THE STREETS.

THE MORNING WAS WEARING ON AS THE MOB CROWD FILLED THE AIR WITH THEIR TAUNTS AND SHOUTS, "CRUCIFY HIM CRUCIFY HIM!! CRUCIFY HIM!!"

BUT FOR A FOURTH TIME, PILATE TRIED A POLITICAL PLOY TO RESCUE JESUS.

YOU SEE, IT WAS CUSTOMARY, ON GREAT OCCASSIONS OF THIS KIND, TO RELEASE A POLITICAL PRISONER TO THE PEOPLE.

AT THIS VERY HOUR, A VIOLENT REVOLUTIONARY NAMED BARABBAS WAS A ROBBER BUT, ALSO, A POPULAR HERO BECAUSE OF HIS AUDACITY IN DEFYING THE ROMAN AUTHORITIES.

PILATE HAD CONSIDERED FREEING HIM, BUT NOW HE HAD A NEW IDEA.

HE WENT BEFORE THE MOB AND SHOUTED, ‘WHOM WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE RELEASED TO YOU — JESUS OR BARABBAS?’

“BARABBAS,” THEY SCREAMED IN UNISON, WAVING THEIR ARMS. “GIVE US BARABBAS!”

PILATE THEN SIGHED AND CRIED, “WHAT THEN SHALL I DO WITH JESUS WHICH IS CALLED, THE CHRIST?”

YES, THIS SEARCHING QUESTION THAT PILATE ASKED STILL ECHOES TODAY. WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH JESUS?

PILATE TRIED TO IGNORE HIM FOR HE TRIED TO SHIFT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF JESUS FIRST TO THE JEWS WHEN HE ASKED THEM TO TRY HIM AND, SECOND, TO HEROD WHEN HE SENT HIM OFF TO HIM.

BUT IN THE END, PILATE, HIMSELF, HAD TO MAKE THE DECISION.

AND SO MUST YOU AND I “I HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE JESUS MY CHOICE!!”

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID AND SANG ABOUT JESUS BUT, WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH JESUS IS MOST VITAL.

YES, AS WE LOOK UPON THIS MUNDANED CIRCUMVENTION OF WHICH WE NOW LIVE, MAN HAS ASKED MANY, MANY QUESTIONS AND THROUGH HIS TECHNOLOGY AND

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, HE HAS ANSWERED MANY QUESTIONS.

1. BUT IN THE MIDST OF HIS TECHNOLOGY;
2. IN THE MIDST OF HIS WALL TO WALL CARPET;
3. IN THE MIDST OF HIS ABILITY TO LIVE LONGER NOW THAN HE HAS EVER LIVED;
4. IN THE MIDST OF HIS SITTING AT THE TABLE EATING HIS BALANCED DIET,
5. IN THE MIDST OF HIS ABILITY TO WALK UPON THE SEASHORE IN THE EVENING HOURS WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN AND KISSES THE RIM OF THE EARTH;
6. IN THE QUIETNESS OF THE EVENING WHEN THE BREEZE HUGS ITS FACE IN THE SYMPHONIC SOUND OF NATURE, MAN REALIZES THAT GOD IS IN HIS HEAVEN AND ALL IS RIGHT WITH THE WORLD.

MAN FEELS GOOD NOW:

1. H BUILDS HIS HOUSES;
2. HE MARRIES HIS WOMEN:
3. H HAS HIS SEX;
4. THEY BARE CHILDREN FOR HIM;
5. HE PUTS HIS MONEY IN THE BANK;
6. HE LIVES RIGHT WITH HIS BROHTERS AND SISTERS;
7. HE IS ABLE TO *SATISFY* HIMSELF.

BUT IN THE EVENING HOURS:

1. WITH HIS BILLS PAID;
2. AND HIS CHURCH BEAUTIFUL;
3. WITH HIS CHOIRS SINGING;
4. WITH HIS PREACHER MAKING HIM HAPPY;
5. WITH THE WORLD CALLING HIM BLESSED;

IN THE PRIVATE CHAPEL OF HIS LIFE, AN ANGEL TIPS INTO HIS ROOM AND SAYS,

1. "MISTER, YOU'VE DONE WELL ON YOUR JOB;
2. YOU HAVE MET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE I.R.S.;
3. YOU ARE NOT IN TROUBLE WITH THE LEGAL COURTS;
4. YOU LIVE ALRIGHT WITH YOUR WIFE AND YOUR CHILDREN.
5. BUT, I'VE GOT A QUESTION HERE THAT I'VE GOT TO HAVE AN ANSWER TO; WHAT, THEN, ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH JESUS?"
6. YES, SOME FOLK DENY HIM, SOME FOLK DOUBT HIM, SOME FOLK ACCEPT HIM, OTHERS REJECT HIM BUT NOBODY CAN IGNORE HIM BECAUSE EVERYBODY MUST DEAL WITH HIM.

"WHAT THEN SHALL I DO WITH JESUS, CALLED THE CHRIST?"

YES, PILATE WAS STILL TROUBLED AND PREPLEXED.

EVERY MOVE THAT HE HAD MADE TO SET JESUS FREE HAD BEEN BLOCKED.

AND JUST AT THAT MOMENT, THERE WAS GRANTED TO HIM ANOTHER CHANCE AND THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT GOD.

IN HER LUXURIOUS BEDROOM, PILATE'S WIFE AWAKENED OUT OF A TROUBLED SLEEP.

SHE CALLED HER MAID AND SAID TO HER, "JULIA, I HAVE HAD A TERRIBLE DREAM.

IN MY DREAM, I SAW AN INNOCENT MAN. HE WAS ON TRIAL STANDING BEFOR MY LORD, PILATE, AND WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH'

AFTER HEARING THE MOB CROWD HOLLOWING "CRICIFY HIM", JULIA RAN TO THE WINDOW AND CALLED BACK TO HER NISTRESS, "THE PROCURATOR IS ON THE JUDGEMENT SEAT AND BEFORE HIM STANDS A PRISONER, BOUND. PERHAPS THAT MAY BE THE PRISONER OF WHOM MY MISTRESS DREAMED?"

AND SHE HASTILY WROTE A MESSAGE TO PILATE AS PILATE SAT THERE TROUBLED, VEXED AND PERPLEXED ON THE JUDGEMENT SEAT. PILATE UNROLLED THE PARCHMENT AND READ THE MESSAGE FROM HIS WIFE WHICH SAID, "HAVE THOU NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT JUST MAN: FOR I HAVE SUFFERED MANY THINGS THIS DAY IN A DREAM BECAUSE OF HIM."

YES, MRS. PILATE MEANT WELL BUT THAT WAS A REQUEST WITH WHICH THE GOVERNOR COULD NOT COMPLY.

FOR YOU SEE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH JESUS.

YES, YOU ARE FREE TO ACCEPT HIM, ANDYOU ARE FREE TO REJECT HIM! BUT YOU CAN NOT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM.

FOR IF YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM, THEN YOU'VE GOT TO GET RID OF:

- 1. ALL THE ROSES, FLOWERS AND PLANTS, FOR SOMEBODY SAID, "HE IS THE ROSE OF SHARON; HE'S THE LILY OF THE VALLEY; HE'S THE CHIEFEST AMONG TEN THOUSAND.**
- 2. IF YOUR ARE GOING TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM, THEN THE GEOLOGIST WOULD HAVE TO GET RID OF ALL THE STONES AND ROCKS IN THE WORLD FOR JESUS IS DANIEL'S STONE HEWD OUT OF A MOUNTAIN; HE'S THE ROCK OF AGES PAST AND HE IS A ROCK IN A WEARIED LAND.**
- 3. IF YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH JESUS, THEN YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE ALL THE TIRES AND WHEELS OFF THE CARS, THE MOTORBIKES AND BICYCLES BECAUSE EZEKIAL SAID THAT, "HE IS A WHEEL WRAPPED UP IN THE MIDDLE OF A WHEEL."**
- 4. IF YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH JESUS, THEN YOU'VE GOT TO DO AWAY WITH ALL HOMES, FOOTSTOOLS AND CHAIRS BECAUSE HEAVEN IS HIS HOME, JERUSALEM IS HIS HOLY SEAT AND EARTH IS HIS FOOTSTOOL.**
- 5. YOU JUST CAN'T HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH JESUS BECAUSE, HE IS TOO MUCH IN EVIDENCE; HE'S TOO MUCH WITH US FOR IF YOU JUST GET A DRINK OF WATER, HE IS THE WATER OF LIFE;**
- 6. IF YOU GET A PIECE OF BREAD, HE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE.**
- 7. IF YOU LOOK UP AT THE STARS, HE IS THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR.**

8. IF YOU GAZE UPON THE SUN, HE IS THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS WITH HEALING IN THE TIP OF HIS WING.
9. YOU JUST CAN NOT HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH JESUS!

SO THEN, AS A LAST JESTURE TO KEEP FROM PRONOUNCING THE VERDICT OF GUILTY UPON HIM, PILATE GAVE ORDERS THAT JESUS WOULD BE FLOGGED AND BEATEN.

A ROMAN FLOGGING NEXT TO A ROMAN CRUFIION WAS AMONGST THE MOST INHUMANE OF TORTURES EVER DEvised BY BLOOD THIRSTY BEASTS.

1. THE CRUEL THONGS CRACKED AND WHINED AS THEY WRAPPED AROUND JESUS' BACK AND LEGS.
2. WITH EACH LASH, THE FLESH WAS LAID OPEN AS THOUGH GASHED WITH A GANGPLOW.
3. BLOOD GUSHED FROM THE GAPING WOUNDS.
4. IT RAN DOWN HIS STRONG THIGHS.
5. IT TRICKLED AROUND HIS ANKLES AND GATHERED IN DARK, BLACK POOLS ON THE STONE PAVEMENT.
6. THEN, THEY TOOK A BOUGH OF THORNS, TWISTED IT INTO A CIRCLE AND PRESSED IT DOWN UPON HIS HEAD.

BUT WHEN THEY BROUGHT JESUS BACK BEFORE PILATE, INSTEAD OF THE MOB CROWD RELENTING, THEY ROARED FOR MORE, **"CRUCIFY HIM! CRUCIFY HIM!!"**

HE WAS AN APPALLING SIGHT. ISAIAH IN THE 53RD CHAPTER AND THE 5TH VERSE WHERE IT SAYS, "HE WAS

WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, BE *WAS* BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES: THE CHASTISEMENT OF OUR PEACE WAS UPON HIM AND BY HIS STRIPES, WE ARE HEALED.”

CONCLUSION

SO IT WAS THAT WHEN PILATE SAID UNTO THE CROWD FOR THE LAST TIME, “I FIND NO FAULT IN HIM,” THE MOB CROWD STILL PRESSURED HIM TO PRONOUNCE THE VERDICT OF GUILTY FOR THEY KEPT SHOUTING, “CRUCIFY HIM CRUCIFY HINT! CRUCIFY HIM!!”

YOU SEE, PILATE’S DILEMMA IS LIKE MANY OF YOU TODAY.

1. **YOU FIND NO FAULT IN HIM, BUT YOU DO NOT HAVE THE COURAGE AND FAITH TO COMMIT YOURSELVES TO HIM.**
2. **THEY SAID, “I FIND NO FAULT IN JESUS,” BUT I’VE GOT TO MAKE A LIVING.**
3. **I FIND NO FAULT IN HIM, BUT I HAVE A POSITION THAT I MUST PROTECT.**
4. **I FIND NO FAULT IN HIM BUT I HAVE A FAMILY THAT I MUST SUPPORT.**
5. ***I FIND NO FAULT IN HIM BUT I HAVE A REPUTATION THAT I MUST MAINTAIN.***
6. **I FIND NO FAULT IN HIM BUT I HAVE AMBITIONS FOR THE FUTURE.**

YES, PILATE, 2011 IS STILL NOT DEAR FOR THOUGH THERE ARE THOSE OF US WHO FIND NO FAULT IN HIM, WE DO NOTHING TO PRAISE AND GLORIFY HIS NAME.

SO, THEN, THOUGH PILATE FOUND NO FAULT IN JESUS, INSTEAD OF HIM TAKING A STAND, HE CALLED FOR HIS WASH BASIN. AND AS HE DIPPED HIS HANDS IN THAT

CLEAR WATER, HE SAID TO THE CROWD, “I AM INNOCENT OF THIS MAN’S BLOOD. FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, HIS BLOOD SHALL BE UPON YOU.

- 1. BUT WHAT PILATE DIDN’T REALIZE *WAS* THAT IT WAS NOT HIS HANDS THAT WERE DIRTY, BUT RATHER, IT WAS HIS HEART.**
- 2. IT WAS NOT PILATE’S HANDS THAT NEEDED WASHING, BUT RATHER, IT WAS PILATE’S HEART.**

FOR THERE ARE SOME THINGS, DIRTY HANDS WON’T DO, BUT A DIRTY HEART WILL DO.

- 1. DIRTY HANDS WON’T PRODUCE EVIL THOUGHTS, MURDERERS, ADULTERIES, FORNICATORS, THIEVES, BLASPHEMERS, AND FALSE WITNESSES, BUT A DIRTY HEART WILL!**
- 2. DIRTY HANDS WON’T LET YOU GRIN IN YOUR NEIGHBORS FACE AND STICK A DAGGER IN THEIR BACK, BUT A DIRTY HEART WILL.**
- 3. DIRTY HANDS WON’T LET YOU BUILD YOURSELF ON THE RUINS OF YOUR FELLOWMAN, BUT A DIRTY HEART WILL.**
- 4. DIRTY HANDS WON’T LET YOU BE A SAINT BY DAY AND A DEVIL BY NIGHT, BUT A DIRTY HEART WILL.**
- 5. DIRTY HANDS WON’T LET YOU WALK AROUND, ENJOY GOD’S FAVORS, AND LIVE RIGHT NEXT DOOR AND WON’T EVEN SPEAK TO YOUR NEIGHBOR, BUT A DIRTY HEART WILL.**

SO THEN, WHEREAS PILATE WAS WASHING HIS DIRTY HANDS, HE SHOULD HAVE LET THE LORD WASH HIS DIRTY HEART!!

NO WONDER THE BIBLE SAID, “WHO SHALL STAND IN HIS HOLY PLACE?” “HE THAT HAS CLEAN HANDS, AND A PURE HEART.”

SO IT WAS THAT WHEN PILATE WASHED HIS HANDS, HE TURNED JESUS OVER INTO THE HANDS OF THE ROMAN SOLDIERS.

AND FOR YOU AND ME, AS HE TRAVELED UP THE HILL TO CALVARY, WAS HE WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS.

HE DID IT JUST FOR YOU AND ME.

EXPOSITION

THE STORY IS TOLD OF A YOUNG, WHITE MAN WHOSE FATHER WAS A SLAVE HOLDER.

THIS YOUNG MAN, HOWEVER, ALWAYS MADE THE REMARK THAT IF AND WHEN HIS FATHER DIED, HE WAS GOING TO SET ALL OF THE SLAVES ON HIS FATHER'S PLANTATION FREE.

FINALLY, HIS FATHER DIED, AND AFTER THE FUNERAL, THE YOUNG MAN *WENT* TO THE CITY TO CARRY OUT HIS DREAM.

HE WENT TO THE COURTHOUSE AND GOT PAPERS SETTING ALL THE SLAVES FREE.

HE WENT TO THE BANK AND DREW OUT MONEY FOR EVERY SLAVE WITH WHICH TO START A NEW LIFE OF FREEDOM.

BUT AS HE CAME OUT OF THE BANK, A LARGE CROWD OF SLAVE—HOLDERS HAD GATHERED THERE.

THEY TRIED TO GET HIM TO UNDO WHAT HE HAD DONE, SAYING THAT HE WOULD BREAK UP THE WHOLE SLAVE SYSTEM.

BUT THE YOUNG MAN REFUSED, SAYING TO THEM, "WHAT I HAVE WRITTEN, I HAVE WRITTEN."

THEY JUUPED ON THE YOUNG MAN AND BEAT HIM MERCILESSLY AND BRUTALLY;

THEY BEAT HIM UNTIL HE BECAME UNCONSCIOUS.

HE WAS TAKEN HOME IN A WAGON AND PUT TO BED: AND THERE HE LAY ALL NIGHT LONG, UNCONSCIOUS.

THE NEXT MORNING AN OLD COLORED WOMAN, WHOM THEY CALLED AINT JANE, WHO WORKED AROUND THE HOUSE HEARD THE YOUNG MAN GROANING AS HE BEGAN TO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS.

SHE WENT INTO *HIS* ROOM TO SEE WHAT THE MATTER WAS.

THERE, SHE SAW HIS BODY BRUISED, HIS FACE MARRED, AND HIS HAIR MATTED WITH BLOOD.

THE YOUNG MAN SAID, “AINT JANE, GO AND RING THE BELL; I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR ALL THE SLAVES.”

AINT JANE SAID, “IT’S NINE O’CLOCK NOW! LET ME TRY TO EASE YOUR PAIN AND YOU GET SOME MORE REST. THE SLAVES WILL ALL BE TO THE HOUSE AT TWELVE O’CLOCK.”

THE YOUNG MAN SAID, “NO, AINT JANE. I WANT TO SPEAK TO THEM RIGHT NOW.”

AINT JANE WENT AND RANG THE BELL, AND THE SLAVES STARTED RUNNING TO THE HOUSE.

SHE, THEN, WENT BACK INTO THE ROOM TO SEE WHAT SHE COULD DO FOR THE YOUNG MAN.

THE YOUNG MAN SAID, “AINT JANE, LOOK IN MY POCKETS AND YOU WILL FIND PAPERS SETTING ALL THE SLAVES FREE.

LOOK IN MY POCKETS AND YOU WILL FIND MONEY FOR ALL THE SLAVES WITH WHICH TO START THEIR LIFE OF FREEDOM.”

HE SAID, “AINT JANE, I’M DYING. I WON’T BE HERE WHEN THE SLAVES GET HERE;

AND IF THEY ASK YOU HOW I DIED, TELL THEM THAT I DIED SO THAT THEY MIGHT BE FREE.”

YES, OVER 2,000 YEARS AGO, THOUGH PILATE COULD FIND NO FAULT IN HIM, HE WAS CRUCIFIED OUT ON A HILL ON AN OLD RUGGED CROSS.

BUT HE LEFT WORD FOR ALL SLAVE SIN SINNERS LIKE YOU AND ME.

HE TOLD ME TO TELL YOU THAT HE DIED IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT BE FREE.

YES, HE DID IT ALL JUST FOR YOU AND ME!

HE SHEDDED HIS BLOOD JUST FOR YOU AND ME

BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE GOT UP WITH ALL POWER JUST FOR YOU AND ME.

I HEARD THE LORD SAY, “WHOSOEVER MY SON SET FREE IS FREE, INDEED.”

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS’.

ULTRA CLIMAX:

YOU KNOW, AS I JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE, THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT, IF I HAD THE CHANCE, I WOULD LOVE TO OWN AND POSSESS.

1. I WOULDN’T MIND HAVING THAT ROD THAT MOSES STRETCHED OUT ACROSS THE RED SEA, AND, WITH GOD SPEAKING THROUGH THAT ROD, A HIGHWAY WAS MADE THROUGH THAT RED SEA.
2. I WOULDN’T MIND HAVING THAT COAT OF MANY COLORS THAT JACOB MADE TO BE WORN BY HIS DARLING SON, JOSEPH.

3. I WOULDN'T MIND HAVING THAT SLING SHOT THAT LITTLE DAVID USED WHEN HE SLEW THE MIGHTY GIANT, GOLIATH.
4. I WOULDN'T MIND HAVING ONE OF THOSE MITES THAT THE WIDOW THREW INTO THE TREASURY CHEST WHILE JESUS WAS SITTING THERE. AND HE TOLD HIS DISCIPLES THAT THAT WOMAN HAD *GIVEN* MORE THAN ANYBODY BECAUSE SHE GAVE ALL THAT SHE HAD.

BUT OF ALL THE THINGS I'VE READ ABOUT IN THE BIBLE THAT I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AND HOLD ON TO FOR KEEPSAKE, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PILATE'S WASH BASIN.

OH, I WONDER TODAY WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO PILATE'S WASH BASIN?

OH, I WONDER WHATEVER BECAME OF PILATE'S WASH BASIN? WHERE IS IT NOW?

1. WELL PILATE'S WASH BASIN IS AT MY HOUSE AND AT YOUR HOUSE.
2. FOR YOU AND I HAVE BEEN USING THAT WASH BASIN FOR A LONG TIME.
3. FOR EVERYTIME WE RENDER SOME EXCUSE FOR NOT HAVING DONE WHAT WE KNOW WE SHOULD HAVE DONE, WE ARE USING PILATE'S WASH BASIN.
4. EVERYTIME WE MAKE SOME EXCUSE FOR NOT PAYING THE TITHE AND GIVING THE OFFERING, WE ARE USING PILATE'S WASH BASIN.
5. EVERYTIME WE RENDER SOME EXCUSE FOR NOT SUPPORTING THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH, WE ARE USING PILATE'S WASH BASIN.
6. EVERYTIME WE, AS CHURCHMEN, STAND AND SEE THAT THE FIELDS ARE WHITE UNTO HARVEST, BUT WILL NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE ONE OF THE

**FEW LABORERS, WE ARE USING PILATE'S WASH
BASIN.**

- 7. EVERYTIME WE RENDER SOME EXCUSE FOR NOT
HAVING DONE WHAT WE KNOW WE SHOULD HAVE
DONE, WE ARE USING PILATES WASH BASIN.**
- 8. PILATE'S WASH BASIN IS AT MY HOUSE AND AT
YOUR HOUSE!!**
- 9. IF YOU WANT TO BE SAVED AND WASH THROUGH
AND THROUGH; INSTEAD OF USING PILATE'S WASH
BASIN, I'VE COME TO TELL YOU,**

“THERE IS A FOUNTAIN FILLED WITH BLOOD,

DRAWN FROM EMANUEL'S VEINS,

WHERE SINNER PLUNG BENEATH THAT FLOOD

LOOSE ALL THEIR GUILTY STAINS.

THE DYING THIEF REJOICED TO SEE

THAT FOUNTAIN IN HIS DAY

AND THERE MAY I, THOUGH VILE AS HE,

WASH ALL MY SINS AWAY

DEAR DYING LAMB, THY PRECIOUS BLOOD,

SHALL NEVER LOSE ITS POWER,

TILL ALL THE RANSOMED CHURCH OF GOD

BE SAVED TO SIN NO MORE.

I'M GLAD I CAN SAY TODAY, “I'M SAVED! SAVED!”

ANYBODY HERE SAVED? SAY YES...YES...YES..OH YES...