



Pilate – The Problem of Indecision

The Road To The Cross Series – Part 3

Matthew 27:11-23

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March 11, 2018



Matthew 27:11–23

¹¹ Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied.

¹² When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer.



¹³ Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” ¹⁴ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor. ¹⁵ Now it was the governor’s custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd.



¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸ For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.



¹⁹ While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him." **²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.**



²¹ "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. ²² "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" ²³ "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"-- (NIV)



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The Most Important Question?

1. It Is A **Personal** Question.
2. It Is A **Pertinent** Question.
3. It Is A **Pressing** Question.



1. The Voices That Confronted Pilate.

A. The Voice of Reason Spoke.

Matthew 27:18¹⁸ He knew very well that the Jewish authorities had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous.-- (GNB)



B. The Voice of a _____ Loved One Spoke.

Matthew 27:19¹⁹ While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."-- (NIV)



C. The Voice of Conscience Spoke.

Matthew 27:23–24²³ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!”



D. The Voice of Jesus Christ Spoke.

**John 18:37³⁷ “You are a king, then!”
said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are
right in saying I am a king. In fact,
for this reason I was born, and for
this I came into the world, to testify
to the truth. Everyone on the side of
truth listens to me.”**



2. The Values That Conformed Pilate.

A. He Valued Public Opinion.

Matthew 27:20²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.



Mark 15:15

15 Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.



B. He Valued His _____ Pride _____.

John 19:10–11¹⁰ “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”¹¹ Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.



C. He Valued _____ Position.

John 19:12¹² From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”



3. The Verdict That Condemned.

A. He Tried To Ignore Jesus.

John 18:31³¹ Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." "But we have no right to execute anyone," the Jews objected.



B. He Tried to Shift the Decision To Someone Else

Luke 23:6–7⁶ On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷ When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.-- (NIV)



C. He Tried to Simply Admire Jesus

Luke 23:14–15¹⁴ and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death.



D. He Tried to Remain Neutral.

Matthew 27:22–24²² “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify him!”²³ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!”



4. The Final Verdict !

A. The Verdict of John The Baptist. (Jn. 1:29)

B. The Verdict of Doubting Thomas. (Jn. 20:28)

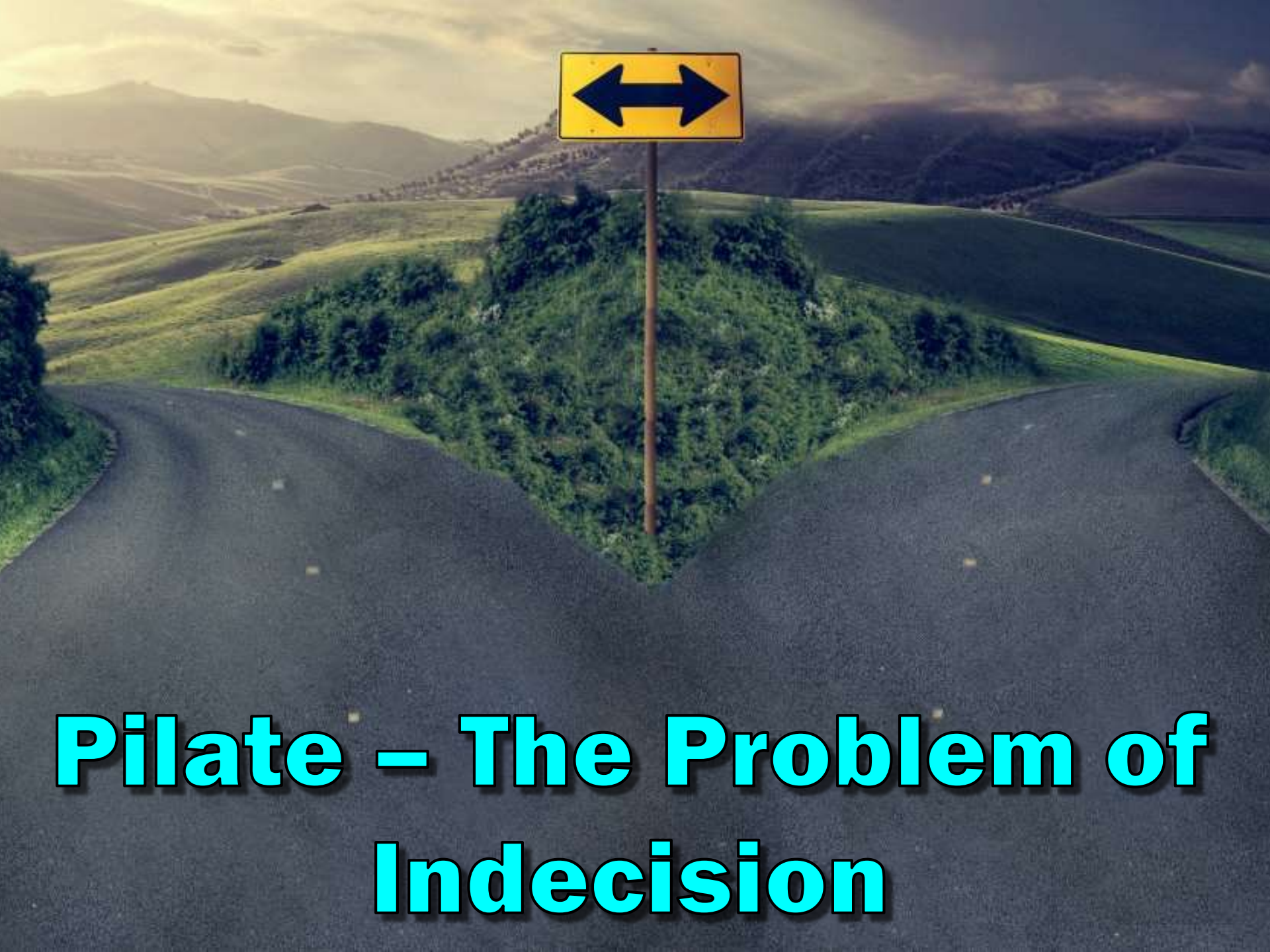
C. The Verdict of Judas. (Mt. 27:4)

D. The Verdict of Centurion. (Mt. 27:54)



E. The Verdict of The Supreme Witness

Matthew 17:5⁵ While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"



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