INDECISION
Matthew 27

Most of the time, I am a decisive person. I tend to know what I want and what I like. When I go to a restaurant, I pretty much know what I am going to order before I order. I am just waiting for the opportunity. That is true about a lot of things in my life. I will think about it for a while and then I make a decision. But I do have moments of indecision. Here in Matthew 27 we read about an indecisive man who was faced with the decision of a lifetime. His name is Pontius Pilate.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. Pilate knew, in his heart of hearts, that Jesus was an innocent man. Pilate was more concerned with not offending the religious leaders than he was with not offending God.

2. Pilate had to deal with the Son question, not the sin question. When it comes down to it, we all will come face to face with God, who will ask, “What have you done with my Son, Jesus Christ?”

3. This is not so much the story of Jesus before Pilate as it is the story of Pilate before Jesus. Pilate’s eternal destiny was based on the decision he made regarding Jesus Christ.

4. Pilate had never met anyone like Jesus. Pilate was used to prisoners asking for mercy or saying they were innocent, but Jesus was different in the things He said and the way He carried Himself. This decision was unlike any other.

5. Pilate could not escape this decision. He tried passing Jesus off to Herod. He tried wiggling out of his decision by offering up Barabbas. But none of his schemes worked. There is no escaping Jesus—for any of us. We must decide.

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- It is interesting to note that as Pilate asked, “What is truth?” he had Truth Incarnate standing in front of him. Those who really seek the truth will find it.
- It is often difficult to speak up and do what is right, but it must be done.
- Just because Pilate’s actions ultimately led to the good work accomplished at the cross, that doesn’t mean he was any less culpable in his actions.
- While Judas sold out Jesus for money, Pilate sold him out for position, power, and prestige.

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

Pilate missed it. He missed everything. He could have seen so much if he had trusted in Christ. This was not Jesus before Pilate. This was Pilate before Jesus. Really, he was judging himself as he judged the Lord. Pilate had to make a decision that we all have to make. What are you going to do with Jesus? You say, “I don’t want to deal with this.” Well too bad. Once you are presented with Jesus you can’t wash your hands of Him. You must decide.