

The Gospel of John: That You Might Believe

“Pontius Pilate”

(John 18:28-19:16)

Introduction:

1. Probably everyone who has heard of the crucifixion story knows who Pontius Pilate was.
2. It is the aim of this lesson to better acquaint you with this historical figure, examine how he responded to Jesus, and make personal application.

I. Who Was Pontius Pilate

- A. Pontius Pilate was the 5th of 14 Procurators of Judea (26-36 A.D.).
- B. He is viewed by some as a saint.
 1. Ethiopian Coptic church - he and his wife are saints.
 2. Tertullian believed he was a Christian.
 3. Greek Orthodox made his wife a saint.
- C. Legends have Pilate tortured, exiled, drowned, decapitated, swallowed up by the earth, and compulsively washing his hands.
- D. What we do know about Pontius Pilate.
 1. First action - Set up Roman Standards bearing the image of the emperor. This inflamed the Jews and he was forced to remove them six days later.
 2. Second action - Appropriated temple funds to build an aqueduct and massacred Jews who protested.
 3. Third action - The crucifixion of Jesus
 4. Fourth action - Massacre of Samaritans at Mount Gerizim.

II. Pontius Pilate’s Encounter With Jesus

- A. Pilate asks the question of the ages (Matthew 27:22).
- B. (Matthew 27:19) Advice of Pilate’s wife.
- C. (Luke 23:6-7) Pilate sends Jesus to Herod.
- D. (John 18:38) Pilate Finds no fault in Jesus.
- E. (John 18:39-40) Pilate offers an exchange - Jesus or Barabbas.
- F. (Matthew 27:24) Pilate washes his hands of the whole affair.

III. Lessons Learned From Pontius Pilate’s Encounter With Jesus

- A. Pilate was a moral coward (2 Peter 1:5).
 1. Reasons why some will not stand up for Jesus today.
 - a. Want to be accepted by peers.
 - b. Don’t like the demands of Jesus.
- B. There is no such thing as neutrality (Matthew 12:30).
- C. Greater knowledge demands greater responsibility (John 19:11).
- D. Some day the tables will be turned and Pilate, as well as ourselves, will be judged by Jesus (John 19:11; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

Conclusion: 1. “What shall I then do with Jesus who is called Christ?”

The Gospel Of John

“These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name”

(John 20:31).

Responses To

The Identity of Jesus

- The Identity of Jesus
- The Woman at the Well
- The Believing Nobleman
- The Jews
- The Five Thousand
- The Adulterous Woman
- The Blind Man
- Lazarus
- Pilate
- Thomas
- Peter

The Fourfold Witness

- John The Baptist
- The Works of Jesus
- The Father
- The Scriptures

The Claims of Jesus

- I Am The Bread of Life
- I Am The Light of the World
- I Am The Door
- I Am The Good Shepherd
- I Am The Resurrection and Life
- I Am The Way, Truth, & Life
- I Am The True Vine

Today’s Lessons:

- A.M. - *Pontius Pilate*
- P.M. - *I Am The Resurrection And The Life*