

Encounters with Jesus

Pontius Pilate

(Matthew 27:22)

- Introduction:
1. Perhaps, Pontius Pilate asked the greatest question anyone has ever asked. He asked, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called the Christ?" (Matthew 27:22).
 2. Skeptics continually are trying to poke holes in the biblical account and have asked if Pilate ever really existed.
 3. Think of the difficulty of finding historical evidence of a person's existence over 2000 years earlier, but we have it with reference to Pilate.
 - a. The Pilate Stone.
 - 1) Discovered in Caesarea.
 - 2) "For the Caesareans. The Tiberium which Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea gave and dedicated."
 - b. The Pilate Coins.
 - 1) Contains a Lituus and Simpulum. These must have agitated the Jews.
 - 2) Date of 30 A.D.
 - c. The Pilate Ring.
 - 1) Found in Herodium.
 - 2) Pilate may not have worn it, but one of his representatives may have worn it for official documents.
 4. Let's turn our attention to the encounter Jesus had with Pilate and learn some lessons from it.

I. Pilate Was Warned About Jesus

- A. (Matthew 27:19).
- B. How many times have you been warned about Jesus and his word?
- C. How many people will face God unprepared, having been warned countless times?
- D. Prepare to Meet Thy God - "Careless soul, O heed the warning, For your life will soon be gone; O how sad to face the judgment Unprepared to meet thy God."

II. Pilate Knew Jesus Was Innocent

- A. (Luke 23:4, 14, 15, 22).
- B. People don't always act on what they know to be true.
- C. Countless people know that Jesus is Lord of lords and King of kings, yet they do not obey him.
- D. To know and disobey is worse than disobeying in ignorance (Luke 12:47-48).

III. Pilate Tried to Skirt Making a Decision

- A. First, he hands him off to Herod (Luke 23:6-7).
- B. Next, offers an “either or” choice that he thought would set him free (Luke 23:20).
- C. Finally, he washed his hands of the whole affair, claiming no responsibility (Matthew 27:24).
- D. His cowardice is no excuse (Revelation 21:8).

- Conclusion:
- 1. We can’t pass Jesus off on someone else.
 - 2. Today, we must answer the same question Pilate asked 2000 years ago, “What then shall I do with Jesus, who is called the Christ?”