

What shall I do then with Jesus who is called the Christ?

These are the words of Pilate, a Roman Governor who had the authority to condemn Jesus to death or to set Him free. He decided to crucify the Lord Jesus.

Being confronted by Jesus Christ was the greatest crisis in the life of Pilate and being confronted by Jesus Christ is the greatest confrontation in your life and my life.

Matthew 27:11-26

“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.

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.

Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. 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?" For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

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."

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

"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

"Barabbas," they answered.

"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead 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!"

All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him."

Pilate was faced with the most difficult decision in his entire life. He examined Jesus and discovered that He was without sin. Before him stood a holy man. There was tremendous pressure on him to condemn Jesus to death while he knew in his heart that Jesus was without sin and had done nothing wrong. Even his wife somehow knew that Jesus was innocent of all the charges and she had advised him, **"Don't have anything to do with this innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of Him."** Matthew 27:19

Even his political future was in trouble for the Jews had threatened to make troubles for him in his relationship with Caesar.

Pilate tried hard to side-step the issues and get rid of the problem.

1. He tried to **disclaim** the issue by telling the Jews "Take him yourself and judge Him by your own law".
2. He tried to **dismiss** the issue by sending Jesus to Herod seeing Jesus was from Galilee an area under King Herod's jurisdiction.
3. He tried to **discuss** the issue but Jesus did not have much to say to Pilate and did not defend Himself.
4. He tried to **distract** the issue by offering Barrabas to be condemned instead of Jesus.
5. He tried to **disown** the issue as he symbolically washed his hands in front of the crowd and said I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your responsibility.

So also people today try to side-step the confrontation with Jesus Christ by ignoring Him, and dismissing Him as irrelevant to their lives. Jesus Christ is alive and He wants to live His life in and through the believers. For this to happen we as believers must

1. Receive Him into our lives as Savior. John 1:12-13

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

2. Trust Him with all of our heart. Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.

3. Make Him to be our Master and Lord. John 20:25

Thomas confessing the Lord Jesus as “Lord and God”.
Jesus took complete charge of His life. He went out to evangelize India and later
died a martyr’s death in Madras, South India.
This involves self-denial

4. Obey His commands. John 14:23-24

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love
him, and **we will come to him and make our home with him.** He who does not
love me will not obey my teaching.

WHAT A PROMISE FROM OUR LORD! “MY FATHER AND I WILL COME
AND MAKE OUR HOME WITH YOU”.

6. Be totally available to Jesus Christ – 24 hours per day

So that I can say “**for me to live is Christ**”, Philippians 1:21

Not self
Not money
Not the job
Not fame
Not power
Not ambition **BUT CHRIST**

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The
life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave
himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

THE EXCHANGED LIFE

Not repair
Not accommodation
Not renewal
Not reformation
Not restoration

NOT I BUT CHRIST