

Mrk58 – What Will Jesus Cost Me? – Mark 15:1-15

The Last Supper

Was followed by the Prayer of Agony in Gethsemane

Then, the Betrayal, & the Arrest

Then, the 1st Mock Trial, and the 1st Round of Abuse

Then, the Denial of Peter, AS Jesus was being drug
back thru the courtyard

It has been a long, dark night

& now – Jesus is bound like a Prisoner,
& being taken to PILATE, the Roman Governor

& in PILATE – we MAY see a Picture – of OURSELVES

As PILATE asks the question
What Will Jesus Cost Me?

Let's Pray

The Death of Jesus – was the Goal of the Religious Leaders
AND – it was the Plan of God – for OUR Salvation

& Jesus is steadily moving – toward THAT Moment

Mark 15:1 (NLT)

1 Very early in the morning the leading priests, the elders, and the teachers of religious law—the entire high council—met to discuss their next step. They bound Jesus, led him away, and took him to Pilate, the Roman governor.

The Jews were not allowed to Execute people
Only Rome could do that job

& so the Religious leaders
took Jesus to PILATE, the Roman Governor

with a plan to have PILATE do their "Dirty Work" for them

& the only charge they could go with was TREASON

which would be Jesus saying
HE was King – & NOT Caesar

So Jesus is Now – in Front of PILATE

Mark 15:2-5 (NLT)

2 Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "You have said it." (emphasis on You)

3 Then the leading priests kept accusing him of many crimes,

4 and Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer them? What about all these charges they are bringing against you?"

5 But Jesus said nothing, much to Pilate's surprise.

The Gospel of JOHN tells us right here

That PILATE took Jesus inside – and Questioned him

& Clearly Determined

that Jesus was NOT GUILTY of Any Crime

BUT - PILATE saw himself in a Difficult Predicament

PILATE Knew the RIGHT Decision to MAKE

**BUT – With the ANGRY Religious Leaders
& the ANGRY People in front of him**

**PILATE was afraid
of WHAT the RIGHT DECISION - WOULD COST HIM**

So – **PILATE** decides to **TRY** to **AVOID**
making **ANY DECISION** about Jesus – **AT ALL**

& He **comes up** with an **IDEA**
that **would FIT** in **the Culture** of the **time**

AND an **Idea that** would **Allow PILATE**
to **NOT have** to **TAKE A STAND** - for **Jesus**

Mark 15:6-7 (NLT)

6 Now it was the governor's custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner—anyone the people requested.

7 One of the prisoners at that time was Barabbas, a revolutionary who had committed murder in an uprising.

& **here MATTHEW tells** us
that **even** the **WIFE of PILATE warned** him

to **NOT condemn** Jesus – **because** of a **Dream** She had

& so Pilate was going to TRY
to Use the People - to Make the Decision

So that HE - would NOT HAVE TO
make a PERSONAL DECISION - about Jesus

& so - Mark 15:8 says (NLT)

8 The crowd went to Pilate and asked him to release a prisoner as usual.

& Pilate thought – here's his chance

maybe the people LIKE Jesus

& it's just the leaders that want him dead

& so Pilate says to the people

In Mark 15:9-10 (NLT)

*9 “Would you like me to release to you this ‘King of the Jews’?”
Pilate asked.*

10 (For he realized by now that the leading priests had arrested Jesus out of envy.)

PILATE IS HOPING

the people would make his decision - FOR HIM

HE'S HOPING

he wouldn't have to make - A PERSONAL DECISION

HE'S HOPING

he could get out of this situation w/o it COSTING him anything

PILATE KNOWS what Decision He SHOULD MAKE

**BUT . . . what is it going to COST HIM
if he makes that Decision – FOR Jesus?**

How is his life going to be impacted?

What is he going to LOSE?

Pilate is weighing the COST

& he's trying desperately to GET OUT of having to make
a PERSONAL DECISION about Jesus

**Maybe YOU know someone who is trying to "Get Out"
of having to make a Personal Decision about Jesus**

**They don't really want to offend you
BUT - they don't want to make a Personal Decision either**

They tend to make - general – generic comments

Like "I don't have a problem with Jesus"

Or "I'm a Catholic –
My whole family – we're ALL Catholics – so we're good"

in MAT Ch 16 - Jesus took his disciples to Caesarea Philippi

the place where dozens of Different gods
were all worshipped in the same place

& In that place – in Matthew 16:13–14 we read (NLT)

13 . . . [Jesus] asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

14 “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

That’s how some people talk about Jesus

He was Good man, Good teacher, He wrote a Good book

But – when the Disciples of Jesus started that kind of talk
Jesus would have **NONE OF IT**

Matthew 16:15 (NLT)

15 Then [Jesus] asked them (pointedly, directly), “But who do you say I am?”

Guys - the Bible is **VERY CLEAR** on this Matter

YOUR ETERNAL SALVATION

Is NOT based on your good works

It’s **NOT** leading a ‘pretty good life’

It’s **NOT** what church you belong to

OR what church you got baptized in – (NONE** of that is in the Bible)**

In the **Deepest Place** of **FAITH & TRUST** in your life

Jesus wants to know the answer to this **ONE QUESTION**

“Who do you say He is?”

in MAT 16 – Peter answered for the Disciples

& I would encourage you

to consider whether this is YOUR PERSONAL ANSWER

Matthew 16:16 (NLT)

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah (Savior), the Son of the living God.”

I pray that IS – or WILL BE –

Your Personal Answer – Your Personal Commitment

“Jesus, You are the Messiah (Savior), the Son of the living God.”

PILATE is NO WHERE NEAR That answer

PILATE is just trying to AVOID

having to make a Personal Decision about Jesus AT ALL

He’s just trying to make

this whole conversation go away - (like some of US have)

So BACK in MARK 15:9

Pilate offers to Release JESUS - According to the custom -

Hoping the CROWD would CHOOSE Jesus

Mark 15:11 (NLT)

11 But at this point the leading priests stirred up the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus.

This is NOT going like Pilate wanted

Pilate's trying to Get OUT of this situation

Without having to make a PUBLIC STAND for Jesus

PILATE is trying

to **kinda make a Subtle Gesture FOR Jesus**

Without having to actually TAKE A STAND for Jesus?

Can't I just say

some "General Good Things" ABOUT Jesus

without actually having to make

a Personal Decision for him? – (isn't that enough)

***Because . . . If I DO make a Clear Decision for Jesus
what will that cost me?***

Will it cost me my Lifestyle?

Will it cost me my Friends?

Will I be labeled as a "Christian"

& maybe soon an "Enemy of the State"

Will I be Ostracized at School?

Will I be Un-Friended on Social Media?

What will it COST me

to take a Stand FOR Jesus?

THOSE are the **KIND of Questions** - **PILATE** is **asking** Himself

BUT – He’s **NOT GETTING**

the **Easy Way Out** - he was **hoping** for

& so – **Pilate throws** the “**Hail Mary Pass**”

One final attempt to get **ALL THIS** to **GO AWAY**

Mark 15:12 (NLT)

12 Pilate asked them, “Then what should I do with this man you call the king of the Jews?”

One Last Attempt -

He’s **just throwing it** out there - & **hoping** for **the best**

BUT - It Doesn’t Work

Mark 15:13-14 (NLT)

*13 They shouted back, “**Crucify him!**”*

*14 “**Why?**” Pilate demanded. “What crime has he committed?”
*But the mob roared even louder, “**Crucify him!**”**

& **PILATE** is **thinking**

I know Jesus is innocent

I know what decision I should make

But how will the people respond?

What will my life look like - IF I CHOOSE JESUS?

WHAT WILL IT COST ME ?

If I Choose Jesus OVER the World ?

If I Choose Jesus OVER what people will think of me?

WHAT will I LOSE – if I CHOOSE Jesus?

WAIT A MINUTE – Wait a Minute

What will you LOSE - if you CHOOSE Jesus?

- **You'll LOSE the POWER that SIN has over your life**
- **You'll LOSE the HOPELESSNESS that's come from chasing the things of this world**
- **You'll LOSE an Eternity Separated from God in Heaven**

What do you mean

What will I LOSE – if I CHOOSE Jesus?

Are you SURE that's the RIGHT Question?

Is **there a chance** - that you are **focusing** on the **TEMPORAL, FLEETING** things of **this world?**

Is **there a chance** - that **you may** be **MORE CONCERNED** **about** a **life** that **May End Tonight**

than you **are about a life** that **God Promises** will **Last For Eternity?**

What will Jesus COST ME?

The right question is

What will it COST YOU - if you TURN your BACK on Jesus?

Ultimately - THAT'S what Pilate did

Mark 15:15 (NLT)

15 So to pacify the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

To pacify the crowd - - **To Pacify the Crowd??**

You turned your **back** on **Jesus**
in **order** to "**Pacify the Crowd**"

Have you **ever turned** your **back** on **Jesus**
in **order** to "**Pacify the Crowd**"?

Have you **chosen** the "**Barabbas**" of **this World**

& **turned** your **back** - on **the Only One**

who can **WASH** your **SIN AWAY**
& **Give** you **ETERNAL LIFE**?

THAT is what **Pilate is doing**

BECAUSE he is **AFRAID**
of what **CHOOSING Jesus might COST HIM**

PILATE turned his **back** on **Jesus**
to **try** to **save his own life**

& **instead** he **LOST BOTH**
THIS Life - AND - His ETERNAL Life

Historians say - the **years following** - **for Pilate**
were **filled** with **continual CONFLICT** & **UPHEAVAL**

& **within** just a **few years** – **Pilate** was **called** to **ROME**
to **answer** for the **Chaos in his life**

& - **knowing** what was **waiting** for him **there**
Instead of **Facing Rome** - **Pilate took his own life**

ALL For WHAT?

To **PACIFY the Crowd?**

To **APPEASE the World?**

To **Try** to **MAINTAIN the Life** he Built for himself?

Jesus said – in Luke 9:23–26 (NLT) → →

Luke 9:23–26 (NLT)

23 . . . “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.

24 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.

25 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?

26 (& then, the hammer) If anyone is ashamed of me and my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels.

Those are words that PILATE needed to hear - that day

Maybe those are words that WE need to hear - today

1Tim 2:4 says

God wants ALL people to be Saved

1 John 2:2 says

Jesus died to atone for the sins of the World

2 Cor 5:19 says

God was, in Christ, reconciling the World to Himself

& Yet – we can STILL CHOOSE

To Turn our Backs on Jesus

We can STILL CHOOSE

This World - Over Jesus

We CAN CHOOSE to be ASHAMED of Him
& We can REFUSE to STAND UP for him

But – IF we do – Jesus says

He will be ASHAMED of US
When He RETURNS in His Glory

& at that moment – we will not think for ONE Second
about what it COST US - to STAND UP for Jesus

Instead we will KNOW

<p><u>BECAUSE</u> we <u>STOOD UP</u> for <u>Jesus</u> - <u>HERE</u> <u>JESUS</u> will <u>STAND UP</u> for <u>us</u> – <u>In ETERNITY</u></p>
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Will You take that Stand for Jesus today?

Will You make that Personal Decision for Jesus today?

Let's Pray