

Behold the Man!

For the last year and a half, we have looked at every word of the gospel of John up to this point, we've spent 15 weeks considering promises of Jesus, and we even spent 44 weeks on Wednesday nights studying the Person and work of Jesus. We have looked at Jesus. We have listened to His claims. The question now is:

What will you do with Jesus?

That is the question that I want you to personally consider, and as we walk through this, I want to show you from our text three different types of people who each made their different choices about Jesus.

Person #1 - Pilate - A man of authority and choice, who, in the end, became a slave to the pressures around him.

Pilate attempts four times to release Jesus, but in the end, we're going to see that he gave in to the pressure even though he saw no guilt in Jesus.

(Attempt of Release #1) - Pilate tries to release Jesus with a passover tradition, but the Jews choose a murderer instead. **18:39-40**

(Attempt of Release #2) - Pilate tries to release Jesus with an appeal to emotional sympathy, but the Jews are relentless. **19:1-8**

(Attempt of Release #3) - Pilate tries to release Jesus by getting Jesus to talk His way out, but Jesus remains silent. **19:9-11**

(Attempt of Release #4) - Pilate tries to release Jesus with public appeal, but the Jews threaten Pilate with blackmail. **19:12-16**

Pilate saw Jesus as an innocent man, but in the end, he rejected Christ to keep his status on this earth. He had authority. He had power to make a choice. He knew in his heart what was right, but he never came to Christ. He tried to save himself instead of look to Jesus to save him, and as a result, he was no free man at all. He was a slave to his political status, to his cultural position, and he was a slave to the fear of his own physical death.

Pilate knew what was right but still rejected Jesus. What will you do with Jesus?

Person #2 - The Jew (Jews) - Self righteous sinners, who never saw their need.

The Jews of Jesus' day were very religious people. They had their meetings, their practices, their rules, their ceremonies, and their heritage. They were God's chosen people. They were

committed. They were consistent. They tried their best, but according to the Bible, they weren't right with God. They weren't saved. They were lost. They did not have salvation. In Romans 10, Paul said that very thing (Romans 9:30-10:4).

The Jews thought they were righteous, but they were sinners. They were righteous according to themselves and not according to God; they never saw their need for salvation.

What about you? Have you seen your need for salvation? Have you learned that the Bible calls you and me sinners? Romans 3:23. Have you seen your desperate need? Jesus said Himself: if you don't believe in me you will die in your sins.

The Jews looked to Jesus and did not trust what He said, and in the end, they never attained the righteousness of God. That's what they did with Jesus. What will you do with Jesus?

Person #3 - Barabbas - A death row prisoner, who was set free by Christ.

I already told you that Barabbas was a convicted and guilty murderer. It's very possible he was on death row. It's very possible he was held as a prisoner, but he knew his next step in life was death. That's all he had for his future, but God had something different in store.

We've looked 3 types of people. My next question is:

Who are you? Which one of these three are you? Are you the pilate type of person? Are you drawn to Jesus but still rejecting His offer of salvation by grace through faith? Are you the self-righteous type of person? Do you not see your need for a savior? Do you not see the eternal death sentence you face? Or are you the death row prisoner type of person?

I am Barabbas. I've made my choice. I'll take Jesus' word for it (John 3:16,18; 6:47).

**I BELIEVE JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AS MY SIN BEARER AND ROSE AGAIN.
ALL MY HOPE FOR ETERNAL LIFE RESTS SOLELY UPON JESUS' WORK ON THE
CROSS FOR ME. BY FAITH IN HIM, I HAVE BEEN SAVED FROM ETERNAL DEATH
AND DESTRUCTION UNDER GOD'S WRATH UNTO ETERNAL LIFE AND
SALVATION UNDER GOD'S PROTECTION.**

Consider these texts: Titus 3:5; Acts 10:43; Romans 3:23-25

What have I done with Jesus? I have cast my faith upon Him for eternal life. I've believed in Him. What will you do with Jesus?