

BELIEVE

ENCOUNTERING JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

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God's Sovereignty and Man's Responsibility

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Big Idea

God sovereignly determined beforehand, Pilate by his own volition would condemn Jesus to death, rendering himself morally responsible and accountable for his actions.

Psalm 2:

“The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the LORD and against his Messiah.”

“In fact, this has happened here in this very city! ... Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed. But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will.”

Acts 4:27-28

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe ³ and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

⁴ Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” ⁵ When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."

⁷ The Jewish leaders insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."

⁸ When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid,

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“He did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.” Isaiah 53:7

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11 Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

12 From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

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14 It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

"Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

15 But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"

19 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."

Matthew 27:19

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16 Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

“With diabolic cunning the Jews insinuated that no matter what the Governor’s personal feelings might be, no matter how unwilling he was to please them, he could not afford to displease the emperor.”

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- 3. Pilate was warned by his own wife, not to sentence this innocent man (Matthew 27:19.).**

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6. Pilate sought to induce the Jews to have him convict Barabbas instead of Jesus (John 18:39,40).

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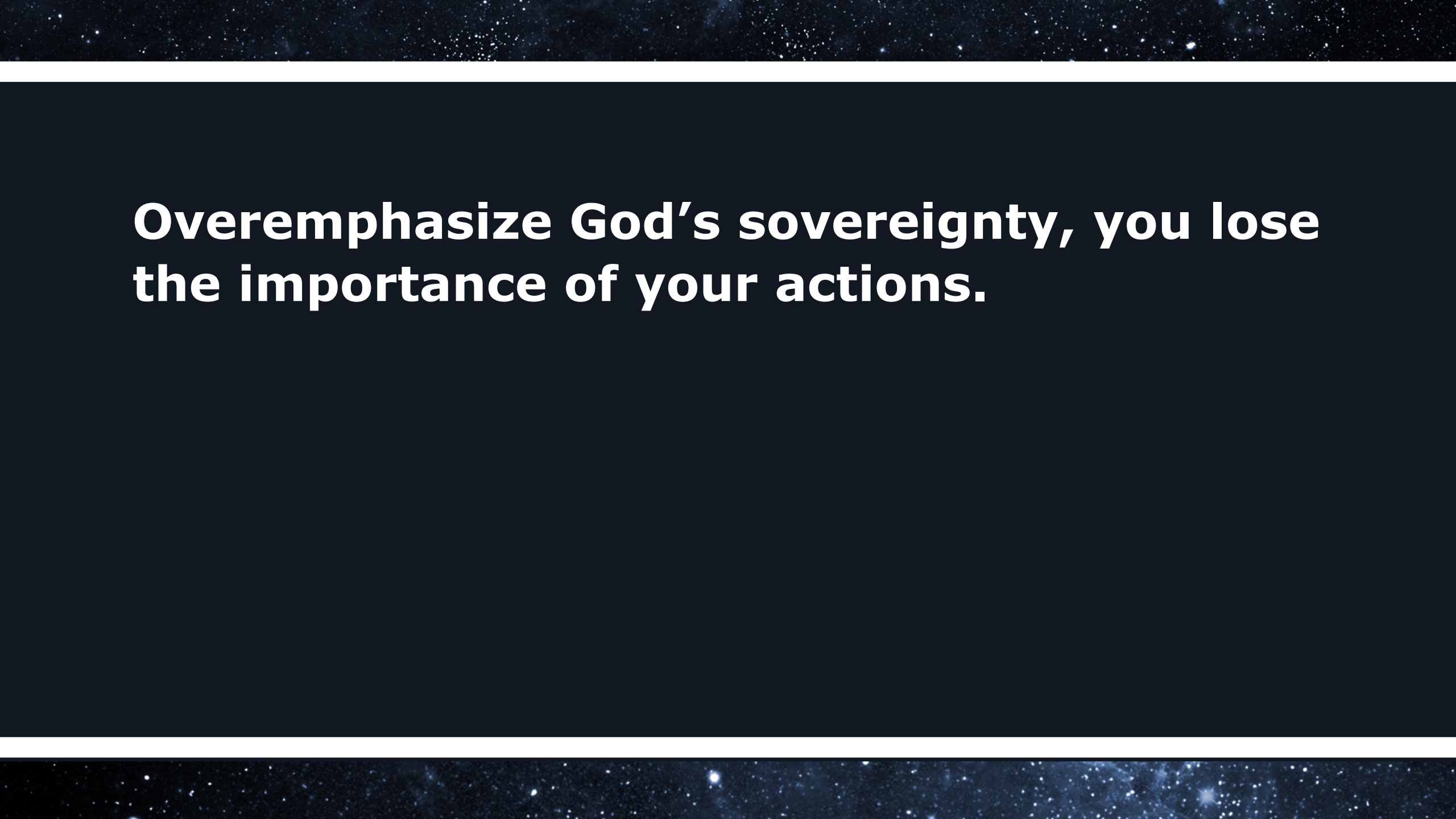
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- 1. Pilate acknowledged that he possessed the self-determinative power either to free Jesus or to crucify him. (John 19:10)**
- 2. Jesus relied, though others were more responsible, Pilate would incur guilt for his sinful decision he will make (John 19:11)**

Second, Pilate knowingly acted as a free moral agent and therefore incurred a share of responsibility for putting to death the Lord of life.

3. Matthew records when Pilate saw he could not prevail over the crowds in an act of self-justification, he washed his hands and said," *"I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."*

How do we reconcile the fact that the Bible simultaneously presents God as absolutely sovereign over all things, including the free acts of men while human beings like Pilate are personally responsible for their sin?



Overemphasize God's sovereignty, you lose the importance of your actions.

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Overemphasize your responsibility, you lose the confidence that God is at work. You'll feel crushed under the pressure.

Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Philippians 2:12-13

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In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.

Proverbs 16:9

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We must hold both truths together



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In your walk with God





We must hold both truths together

**In your walk with God
In your evangelism**



We must hold both truths together

**In your walk with God
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In your decisions**



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Divine sovereignty

Man's Responsibility