

## “GOOD FRIDAY- THE TRIAL OF CHOICES”

Friday, April 3, 2026

Matthew 27:1-2, 11-26 (NASB95)

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### 1. THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS CHOICE – THEY REJECTED JESUS.

**Matthew 27:1–2 (NASB95)** <sup>1</sup>Now when morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus to put Him to death; <sup>2</sup>and they bound Him, and led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate the governor.

❖ RELIGION WITHOUT RELATIONSHIP LEADS TO REJECTION.

### 2. THE GOVERNOR’S CHOICE – PILATE AVOIDED JESUS.

**Matthew 27:11–26 (NASB95)** <sup>11</sup>Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?” And Jesus said to him, “It is as you say.” <sup>12</sup>And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He did not answer. <sup>13</sup>Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?” <sup>14</sup>And He did not answer him with regard to even a single charge, so the governor was quite amazed. <sup>15</sup>Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the people any one prisoner whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup>At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. <sup>17</sup>So when the people gathered together, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” <sup>18</sup>For he knew that because of envy they had handed Him over. <sup>19</sup>While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message, saying, “Have nothing to do with that righteous Man; for last night I suffered greatly in a dream because of Him.”

❖ NOT CHOOSING JESUS IS CHOOSING AGAINST HIM.

### 3. THE CROWD’S CHOICE – CRUCIFY JESUS.

<sup>20</sup>But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to put Jesus to death. <sup>21</sup>But the governor said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” <sup>22</sup>Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Crucify Him!” <sup>23</sup>And he said, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they kept shouting all the more, saying, “Crucify Him!” <sup>24</sup>When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this Man’s blood; see to that yourselves.” <sup>25</sup>And all the people said, “His blood shall be on us and on our children!” <sup>26</sup>Then he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.

❖ IF YOU FOLLOW THE CROWD, YOU WILL OFTEN WALK AWAY FROM CHRIST.

IN THE TRIAL OF JESUS EVERY GROUP MADE A CHOICE AND EVERY CHOICE REVEALED THE HEART.