

Questions of Pilate

No. 12

Introduction

I. Nearly 2,000 years ago Christ stood before Pilate, the governor of Judea. Jesus had been brought to Pilate by the Jewish leaders who were envious of Him. They wanted Pilate to sentence Jesus to death since they did not have the power to do so as a servitude nation.

II. On this occasion Pilate asked a number of questions that would be good for us to consider.

I. "Art Thou The King Of The Jews?"

A. The **first question** Pilate asked is recorded in Luke the 23rd chapter.

1. The Jews began to make charges against Jesus. Among the charges they made was that Christ forbid paying tribute to Caesar and that He claimed to be king. In essence they were charging that Christ was an enemy of the Roman government. He did not deserve to live.
2. Following the charges of the Jewish leaders, Pilate asked Christ, "Art thou the king of the Jews?" (Lk. 23:3). He wanted to see if Christ would deny or affirm the charges made against Him.

B. In response to this question, Jesus said, "Thou sayest" which was an affirmation of His kingship.

1. Jesus then went on to explain the nature of His kingdom. (Jn. 18:36).
 - a. Jesus affirmed His kingdom was not as earthly kingdom, but a spiritual one.
 - b. Earlier in His ministry Christ had also emphasized this fact. (Lk. 17:31). Christ taught the kingdom is the rule of God in the hearts of men.
2. The kingdom was established on the day of Pentecost in about 33 A.D.. (Acts 1:6-8).
 - a. Jesus promised the apostles would receive power from the Holy Spirit when the kingdom came. A few days after this, on the day of Pentecost, Luke says of the apostles. (Acts 2:4).
 - b. Peter, being filled with the Holy Spirit, said to the Jewish multitude.

ACT 2:32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

ACT 2:33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

ACT 2:34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord,' 'Sit at My right hand,

ACT 2:35 Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet. '"

ACT 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified."

c. Peter declared Jesus was "exalted" at "the right hand of God." He was "both Lord and Christ." He is the

anointed ruler of God's people and will save those who let Him rule their hearts.

II. "What Is Truth?"

A. A **second question** Pilate asked is recorded in John 18:37,38.

1. Christ affirmed He had come to proclaim or bear witness to the truth. Pilate then asked, "What is the truth?"
2. Christ did not answer this question because it was not a sincere one. Had it been sincere, Christ would have answered it as He answered the question of Nicodemus and others.

B. Even though Christ did not answer Pilate's question, **the answer to it is abundantly clear.**

1. The truth Christ spoke of was the holy, sacred word of God. (Psa. 119:42b; Jn. 17:17).
2. It is by the truth, the word of God, that we are saved. (Jn. 8:32; Rom. 1:16; Jas. 1:18, 21).

III. "Whence Art Thou?"

A. A **third question** Pilate asked Christ is found in John 19:9.

1. After hearing the charge that Christ claimed to be the Son of God, Pilate inquired, "Whence art thou?" That is, where are you from? He wanted to know if Christ was divine or a mere man.
2. Jesus again did not answer him. He had already convinced Pilate of His innocence and knew it would be a waste of time to answer Pilate since he was too weak to go against the Jews.

B. The answer to this question is found elsewhere in the Bible.

1. Christ had come from heaven. (Jn. 1:1,2, 14; 6:51; 17:5; Phil. 2:5-8).

PHI 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

PHI 2:6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

PHI 2:7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, {and} being made in the likeness of men.

PHI 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

2. These scriptures set forth that Jesus was no mere man. He was Deity. "He existed in the form of God." He was the divine Son of God become incarnate.

IV. "What Shall I Do With Jesus?"

A. A **fourth question** Pilate asked was, "What shall I do with Jesus?" (Matt. 27:22). He did not know what to do with Jesus whom he regarded as innocent.

B. Through the ages men have answer this question in many different ways.

1. **His own received Him not.**

- a. They asked, “Is not this the carpenter’s son? is not His mother called Mary?” (Matt. 13:55). They refused to believe that they the poor boy they had seen grow up in Nazareth could be the Son of God.
 - b. Even His own brothers and sisters refused to believe on Him until after the resurrection. (Matt. 13:57).
2. Others tried to **discredit Him**.
- a. One time a man was brought to Jesus who possessed a demon and who was dumb and blind. Jesus healed the man so that he spoke and saw. The multitude said, “Can this be the son of David?” They though perhaps Jesus was the promised Messiah.
 - b. The envious Jews said, “This man has not cast out demons, but by Beelzebub the prince of demons? They argued His miracles were by the power of the devil.
3. Others tried to **trap Jesus**. (Matt. 22:17-21).
4. **Peter denied the Lord** three times. The last time he denied Jesus he began to curse and to swear saying, “I know not the man.” (Matt. 26:74).
5. **Judas betrayed Jesus**.
- a. He said to the Jewish leaders, “I will deliver Him unto you.”
 - b. He sold Jesus out for 30 pieces of silver - the price of a slave. (Matt. 26:14,15).
6. **Pilate tried to be neutral**. He washed his hands before the multitude and said, “I am innocent of the blood of this righteous man; see ye to it.” (Matt. 27:24).
7. The **Jews** cried out, “Let him be crucified.”
- a. Pilate asked, “What evil hath he done?”
 - b. They cried out even more exceedingly saying, “Let him be crucified..his blood be on us, and on our children.” (Matt. 27:22, 23, 25).
8. The **soldiers mocked Him**. (Matt. 27:27-29).
9. The **Jews also mocked Him**. As Jesus hung on the cross, they railed Him saying, “If thou art the Son of God, come down from the cross.” “He saved others; himself he cannot save. He is the king of Israel; let him now come down from the cross and we will believe on him.” (Matt. 27:40-42).
10. **Others obeyed Him and made Jesus the Lord of their lives**. (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 18:8).
- a. Thousands who lived in the first century and millions of others have given their lives to Jesus.
 - b. They recognize Jesus as the Son of God, their Savior, their Lord, and exclaim as Paul did. (Gal. 2:20).

Conclusion.

- I. **What will you do with Jesus?** The question comes to you. There are just 2 things you can do with Him. You must accept or reject Him. You must love Him or spurn Him. There is no neutral ground. (Matt. 12:30).

- II. If you accept Jesus, you must acknowledge Him as the Son of God. (Jn. 8:29). If you accept Jesus, you must repent of your sins. (Lk. 13:3; Acts 3:19). If you accept Jesus, you must confess Him to be saved. (Matt. 10:32). If you accept Jesus, you must also be baptized. (Mk. 16:16; Acts 22:16).
- III. Why not make Christ your Savior today? Don't delay this important decision! The question is yours today, but it will be reversed in the judgment. The question then will be "What shall Jesus do with you?" That depends on how you answer this question. Will you accept Jesus as we stand and sing?

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