

Matthew 27:15-26

The Verdict

August 2, 2020 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro –

Trial #1 - Jesus before Annas

Trial #2 - Jesus before Caiaphas

Trial #3 - Jesus before the Sanhedrin

Trial #4 - Jesus before Pontius Pilate

Trial #5 - Jesus before Herod

Trial #6 - Jesus before Pilate

Decision #1 - Pilate's Decision

Proverbs 29:25 - The fear of man brings a snare.

Step #1 - He listened to the voice of the crowd even though he knew they were wrong.

v. 18 - He *knew* that they had handed Jesus over because of envy.

Step #2 - He looked for a way around doing the right thing.

1. First, when the religious leaders came to him, he told them to judge Jesus themselves.
2. Second, he sent Jesus to Herod.
3. Third, he suggests a compromise.

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Luke 23:16 - Pilate said, "I'll have Him flogged and then I'll release Him."

4. Pilate tries to trick them into doing the right thing.

Matthew 27:15 - Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to releasing to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished.

vs. 16 - At that time they had a *notorious* prisoner called Barabbas Therefore, when they'd gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?"

5. He tries to wash his hands of his responsibility.

v. 19 - While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I've suffered many things today in a dream because of Him."

v. 24 - When Pilate saw that he couldn't prevail at all, but rather *that* a tumult was rising, he took water and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, "I'm innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see *to it*."

James 4:17 - Whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, is guilty of sin.

Step #3 - He was willing to do a "little" wrong in order to appease others.

John 19:1 - Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged.

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John 19:2-5 - The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head. They clothed Him in a purple robe and went up to Him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped Him in the face. Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I'm bringing Him out to you to let you know that I find no fault in Him.” When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Behold the Man!”

John 19:6 - As soon as the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, “Crucify *Him*, crucify *Him!*” Pilate said to them, “You take Him and crucify *Him*, for I find no fault in Him.”

Decision #2 - The Crowd's Decision

v. 17 - When they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?”

v. 20-22 - The chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” They said, “Barabbas!” Pilate said to them, “What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” *They* all said to him, “Let Him be crucified!” Then the governor said, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they cried out all the more, saying, “Let Him be crucified!”

v. 26 - Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *Him* to be crucified.

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Trial #6 turns on two critical decisions. Decisions you'll also have to make.

Decision #1 - _____ Decision

Three steps that led to Pilate's downfall.

**Step #1 - He listened to the voice of the crowd _____
_____.**

Step #2 - He looked for _____.

Step #3 - He was willing to do a "little" wrong _____.

Decision #2 - _____ Decision