

LIVE OAK CHURCH

Pilate's Story & Ours

March 01, 2026

Luke 23:1-17; Matthew 27:22; John 18:37-38; 19:10

Don't Be Like This Person Don't Let Pilate's Story Be Your Story

I. Who was Pilate?

- A. Procurator of Judea 26-36 AD
- B. Found in the ancient writers of history
 - 1. Josephus - Jewish historian
 - 2. Tacitus - Roman historian
 - 3. Philo - Hellenistic Jewish philosopher
- C. Archeological discoveries
 - 1. Pilate stone in 1961
 - 2. Bronze coins with his inscription
- D. Mentioned 56 times in New Testament
 - 1. Mentioned in all 4 gospels
- E. Mentioned in Apostles' Creed
- F. Married the granddaughter of Caesar Augustus

II. 3 classic questions asked by Pilate

- A. What shall I do with Jesus?
- B. What is truth?
- C. Are you not speaking to me?

- D. These are questions for the ages
 - 1. None more personal
 - 2. None more avoidable
 - 3. None more eternal

III. What shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ? Matthew 27:22

- A. This is an inescapable question
 - 1. You will do something
 - 2. Neutrality is not an option
- B. Pilate tried to dodge the decision
 - 1. Pilate doesn't want to face or deal with this decision
- C. Transfers/shifts/deflects the responsibility
 - 1. Sends Jesus to Herod Antipas
 - 2. Beware if you do this
- D. Total neglect of evidence
 - 1. Pilate knew of the miracles
 - 2. Pilate heard of the claims made by Jesus
 - 3. Pilate's wife, Claudia, had a dream warning Pilate about Jesus

IV. What is truth?

- A. Jesus came to bear witness of the Truth
- B. Pilate's response "What is truth?"
- C. Instead of asking Jesus to explain truth, he dismisses Jesus
- D. Pilate has become cynical
- E. Jesus declared truth sets you free

- F. We are responsible for the truth we could know
- G. Whole purpose of your life depends on the truth
 - 1. 2 Thessalonians 2:10 - Did not receive the love of the truth as to be saved
- H. Jesus said "I am the Truth" & "Thy Word is Truth"
- I. God affirms Jesus, disciples affirm Him, enemies affirm Him
- J. Truth is not negotiable, not an opinion, not cultural consensus
- K. Truth is a person revealed
- L. There is a cost for rejecting Truth

V. 3rd question: are you not speaking to me?

- A. Tables are now turned
- B. Jesus doesn't speak to Herod - He stays silent
 - 1. Jesus spoke to crowds, disciples, accusers
 - 2. But Herod received silence
 - 3. Herod rejected the truth of John the Baptist
 - 4. Herod wanted to be entertained
 - 5. Jesus said nothing (Luke 23:9), a sign of judgment
- C. Pilate is now on trial
 - 1. He fears losing his job
 - 2. He fears a riot

- 3. He has a decision to make
- D. You can't reject Jesus & remain innocent
- E. This was Pilate's last great opportunity

VI. Pilate's wrong responses

- A. Rejected Him/gave Him up
- B. Tried to redefine Him
- C. Tried to escape responsibility

VII. Rest of the story

- A. Pilate lost a great opportunity
- B. Word of resurrection spread
- C. He obsessed in washing his hands
- D. Was called back to Rome
- E. Eventually took his life (based on most sources)

VIII. The questions

- A. What shall I do with Jesus?
 - 1. Receive Him
- B. What is truth?
 - 1. His finished work
- C. Listen for His voice that says, "Come to Me"

That Would Have Changed Pilate's Future Forever