


## The Gospel of Matthew

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*“What Shall I do with Jesus?”*  
 (Jesus Before Pilate)  
 Matthew 27:11-26

### Matthew 27:1-2

Now when morning had come, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death;  
 and they bound Him, and led Him away, and delivered Him up to Pilate the governor.



## Jesus Before Pilate

### Pontius Pilate

- appointed provincial governor of Judea and Samaria by Tiberius Caesar in A.D. 26
- portrayed as cruel and insensitive, who hated his Jewish subjects
- recalled by Rome and banished in A.D. 36

### Matthew 27:11-26

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.”  
 And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He made no answer.  
 Then Pilate said to Him, “Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?”  
 And He did not answer him with regard to even a word, so that the governor was quite amazed.  
 Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the multitude any one prisoner whom they wanted.  
 And they were holding at that time a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas.

When therefore they were gathered together, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?”  
 For he knew that because of envy they had delivered Him up.  
 And while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man; for last night I suffered greatly in a dream because of him.”  
 But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the multitudes to ask for Barabbas, and to put Jesus to death.  
 But the governor answered and said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you? And they said, “Barabbas.”  
 Then Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!”

And he said to them, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they kept shouting all the more, saying, “Let him be crucified!”  
 And 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 multitude, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to that yourselves.”  
 And all the people answered and said, “His blood be on us and on our children!”  
 Then he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he delivered him to be crucified.  

(Matthew 27:11-26)



## Jesus Before Pilate

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### 1. The identity of Jesus

➤ *“the King of the Jews”*

- Jesus indirectly affirmed His “kingship” before Pilate
- He came as King but not in a political manner
- One day His Kingship will be visible and universal



## Jesus Before Pilate

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### 1. The identity of Jesus

➤ *the suffering servant*

- His silence before His accusers fulfills the motif of the suffering servant of Isaiah 53 (v7)
- His silence is a sign of submission to His Father’s will and trust in His Father’s provision



## Jesus Before Pilate

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### 2. The innocence of Jesus

➤ *His innocence is seen...*

- the dream and testimony of Pilate’s wife
- Pilate’s words – “what evil has he done?”
- Pilate’s actions – he washed his hands to signify that he was not responsible for Jesus’ death



## Jesus Before Pilate

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### 3. The guilt of all involved

Q: *Who was responsible for the death of Jesus?*

- (1) Pilate (Rome) – out of political expediency he went against what he knew was just
- (2) the Jewish leaders – out of envy and blindness they hand over Jesus and influenced the crowd
- (3) the Jewish people – out of ignorant unbelief they accepted responsibility for Jesus’ death



## Jesus Before Pilate

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Q: *Who was responsible for the death of Jesus?*

- we were – our sin was the necessary cause of His death on the cross
- God the Father was the ultimate cause – His plan for our redemption and the exaltation of His Son