

Easter 2010
Today
is the
Day

Sermon Series Notes



"Closet Christians" (Easter 2010) John 19
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Read vv.16b-20 Hebrew = the language of religion; Latin = the language of law and order; Greek = the language of culture and education. God wants all men to know that this king dies for them. He died for ALL men John 3:16.

vv.21-22 Pilate wrote this out of contempt for the Jewish people and the Jewish leaders. But there is something else going on here Pilate believed Jesus was a king.

* Luke 23: 3 So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. (Each gospel account records this for us).

* Pilate sends Jesus to be examined by Herod, but Jesus does not answer any of Herod's questions.

* Luke 23: 9 He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer.

* And when the chief priests and elders accused him, he did not respond.

* Matthew 27: 12 When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. 13 Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" 14 But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge--to the great amazement of the governor.

* Why was Jesus silent before his accusers?

a. Isa.53:7 7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

b. See John 12:37-40; Herod and most of the Jewish leaders are hardened toward the truth

* But Jesus has quite a conversation with Pilate (see John 18:33-34). This is like when Jesus asked the disciples who people were saying he was, and then he said, "Who do YOU say I am?" It is a very personal question

* See John 18:35-38; Somewhere around this time Pilate's wife sends him a message Matthew 27: 19 While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him

this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

* God is really working on Pilate's conscience, and Pilate is struggling with TRUTH!

* See John 19:1, 4-5; Pilate hopes that this will satisfy the crowd, but it does not see vv.6-16.

- Matthew 27: 24 When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

* Pilate's heart was not yet hardened (as was Herod's and many of the Jewish leaders). As you read the accounts, especially John's account, you see the tremendous conviction Pilate was under, yet in the end he made the wrong decision. In the end his heart did become hard. He failed to take a stand for truth/Jesus Christ. And why did he not take a stand? Because of "the crowd." And of course because of what he stood to lose. He was already on shaky ground with Caesar, and hearing the uproar of the crowd, realizing if a riot broke out, Caesar might remove him from his throne he would lose his position in life

* What about you? Do you believe Jesus is a king? What difference has it made in your life? Have you taken a stand for truth/Jesus? For each one of us, it is a personal choice and that choice determines whether or not we experience "RESURRECTION."

* Eph.2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.

* Rom.6: 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

* John 10:18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.

* God gives us this same choice see Matthew 16:21-25.

* Taking a stand for truth is usually easier when you have someone to stand with you. That happens to two people in our story summarize John 19:23-37, then go to vv.38-42.

* John 12: 42 Yet at the same time *many* even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

* Question: How did they find out that the other one was a "secret disciple" ("Closet Christian")? John 3, Nicodemus goes to Jesus (summarize); John 7:45-52; Nicodemus gets his first taste of suffering as a result of taking a stand for Jesus. And one of his peers took notice - Joseph of Arimathea! (See Luke 23:50-51).

* This act now excludes them from taking part in the religious events surrounding Passover. They are now ceremonially unclean. But spiritually they are more clean than they have ever been!