

"Might Does Not Make Right"
John 18.28 - 19.16

1. Jews: Dangers Facing Church Leaders

- a. Outward Focus v. 28,30 Romans 2.8 *Hypocrisy*
- b. Outspoken yet Uninformed v. 30,40 *Stupidity*
- c. Forgot God vs. 12-15 Revelation 2.4 *Idolatry*

2. Pilate: Dangers Facing State Leaders

- a. Use People vs. 29,33 Jude 16 *Expediency*
- b. No Standard vs. 31,38,4 Romans 1.18,25 *Amanability*
- c. No Fear of God vs. 8-12 Revel 21.8 *Exploitation
Abuse of Power*

3. Jesus: Leader of Church and State

- Sovereign / Consul*
- a. Confidence v. 32 10.18 1 Timothy 6.13
- b. Boldness vs. 34,9 2 Corinthians 3.12
- c. Authority vs. 36,11 Hebrews 12.28

*Expos. & S
John Wilson*

HISTORICAL ENCOUNTER:

HEAD OF STATE, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, HEAD CHURCH

1. Jews: Dangers Facing Church Leaders

Brought Jesus from Jewish Council - Caiaphas

a. Outward Focus CONCERN FOR EXTERNAL RITUALS

v. 28b "to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover"

MANY CHRISTIANS WANT TO STAY OUT OF THE UNCLEAN POLITICAL ARENA

"Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is their shame. Their mind is on earthly things." Philippians 3.18,19

DON'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED - WANTED GOV'T TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK

v. 28a "the Jews led Jesus to the palace of the Roman governor"

v. 31 "we have no right to execute anyone"

USE THE GOV'T BUT NOT BE INVOLVED IN IT

Romans 2.8 "for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger"

b. Outspoken yet Uninformed

CALLED FOR MURDER THE INNOCENT

v. 30 "If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you"

v. 7 The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God"

RELEASE THE GUILTY

v. 40 "No not Jesus!" "Give us Barabbas!"

Martin Luther

"Better to be ruled by a smart pagan than a dumb Christian"

TODAY - CHURCH MUST BE WISE AND ACCURATE IN ITS MESSAGE

2

COMPLEX ISSUES - GOV'T / LAW / MEDICINE / SCIENCE / ECONOMICS

CHURCH SPEAKS AGAINST BOOKS WE HAVE NOT READ / FILMS NOT SEEN

Like CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS -

- 1) He didn't know where he was going
- 2) He didn't know where he was when he got there
- 3) He didn't know where he had been when he got home

Colossians 4.5,6 "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."

c. Forgot God LOST TOUCH WITH HIM

FOR 2,000 YEARS - GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE - LAZY AND PROUD

GOD HIMSELF CAME - UNRECOGNIZED AND REJECTED

vs. 12-15 Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar." Pilate...brought Jesus out..."Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar."

"He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him." John 1.10,11

JESUS SAID TO THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS

"I hold this against you: you have forsaken your first love" Revelation 2.4

HAVE WE LOST TOUCH WITH GOD?
EVEN IN THE MIDST OF OUR RELIGIOUS RITUALS?
worship - Sunday school - preaching?

2. Pilate: Dangers Facing State Leaders

BAD EXAMPLE OF POLITICAL LEADER - Roman Governor of Judea

HISTORY - tried to cover personal weaknesses w/ violence

a. Use People RATHER THAN SERVE PEOPLE

STRONG MUTUAL HATRED BETWEEN PILATE AND THE JEWS

v. 29 "Pilate came out to them" / SHAKE HANDS & KISS BABIES

v. 33 to Jesus "Are you the King of the Jews"

ROMAN PRACTICE - USE THE LOCAL LEADERS FOR THEIR BEST ENDS

KING HEROD - PUPPET OF ROME // TAX-COLLECTORS - LOCAL TRAITORS

LITTLE ROCK TODAY - POSITIONING FOR POWER - ENDORSEMENTS

WHY NOT USE RELIGION? AND THIS IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS LEADER??

Jude 16 PEOPLE "follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage"

b. No Standard EVERYONE DID WHAT WAS RIGHT IN THEIR OWN EYES

v. 31 Pilate to Jews "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law"

JEWISH LAWS AND ROMAN LAWS IN CONFLICT

AMBIGUITY TODAY - LOWER COURTS / APPEALS / SUPREME COURT
COUNTY - STATE - FEDERAL

INCONSISTENCIES - DOUBLE STANDARD - EVADE JUSTICE

v. 38 "What is truth?"

TRUTH HIMSELF STOOD BEFORE HIM - LOOKING HIM IN FACE

NOT A SINCERE SEARCH FOR TRUTH -

v. 1 "Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged...put a crown of thorns on his head...they struck him in the face...Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to LET YOU KNOW THAT I FIND NO BASIS FOR A CHARGE AGAINST HIM"

PAUL RIGHTLY ANALYZED THE HUMAN HEART - ④
Romans 1:18,25 "men who suppress the truth by their wickedness...they exchanged the truth about God for a lie"

c. No Fear of God

vs. 7-12 "he claimed to be the Son of God." When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar."...v. 16 "Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified."

APPEARS TO BE AFRAID OF GOD - SUPERSTITION - COWARDICE

FEAR OF CAESAR MORE THAN FEAR OF GOD

EXECUTED AN INNOCENT MAN TO PLEASE A CROWD THAT HATED HIM

DANGER OF BEING A COWARD BEFORE GOD

Revel 21.8 "the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile...their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death"

3. Jesus: Leader of Church and State

EXAMPLE OF RIGHTEOUS LEADERSHIP FOR BOTH CHURCH AND STATE

a. Confidence IN GOD'S WILL

v. 32 "the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled"

NOT BLIND FATE - SUPERSTITION - UNKNOWN GOD

PERFECT PLAN OF A PERSONAL GOD

10.18 "No one takes (my life) from me, but, I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and I have authority to take it up again."

NOT A VICTIM ON THE CROSS BUT A VICTOR

1 Timothy 6.13 "Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession"

David Livingstone "I am immortal until the will of God for me is accomplished"

b. Boldness BEFORE HIS ACCUSER

Friday night DETROIT Malice Wayne Green - 35 Beaten to Death by POLICE for being a SMART MOUTH

BOLDNESS TO SPEAK

v.34 "Is that your own idea, or did others talk to you about me?"

BOLDNESS TO KEEP SILENT

v. 9 "Jesus gave him no answer"

WISDOM TO KNOW WHICH TO EMPLOY

2 Corinthians 3.12 GREAT GLORY OF THE NEW COVENANT IN CHRIST:
"since we have such a hope, we are very bold"

Bishop Phillips Brooks "Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your task. Then the doing of the work shall be no miracle, but you shall be a miracle"

CAPTAIN ON BRIDGE OF LARGE NAVAL VESSEL SAILING AT NIGHT
LIGHT AHEAD - ON COLLISION COURSE

SIGNALLED "Alter your course 10 degrees south"

REPLY "Alter your course 10 degrees north"

ANGRY RESPONSE "Alter your course 10 degrees south, I am a captain

REPLY "Alter your course 10 degrees north, I am a seaman 3rd clas

ANGRY RESP. "Alter your course 10 degrees south, I am a battleship

REPLY "Alter your course 10 degrees north, I am a LIGHTHOUSE"

BOLDNESS OF THE CHRISTIAN IS BASED NOT ON OURSELVES - CHRIST

c. RIGHTFUL Authority

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v. 36 "My kingdom is not of this world...now my kingdom is from another place." "You are a king then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying that I am a king"

Hebrews 12.28 "we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken"

v. 11 "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above"

POWER OF PILATE GIVEN BY ONE HE WOULD EXECUTE

January 1986 - Josiah Born - Military Coup - 10th in Uganda
LIVED IN ARUA - 300 MILES FROM KAMPALA
TOWN CONTROLLED BY FLEEING ARMY - CHASED OUT OF CAPITAL
LISTENED TO INAGURATION OF PRESIDENT YOWERI MUSEVINI - RADIO UG.
NOT UNTIL GOOD FRIDAY - DID MUSEVINI'S ARMY TAKE CONTROL OF ARUA
JESUS CHRIST - IN DEATH & RESURRECTION - ESTABLISHED HIS KINGDOM
FULNESS WILL BE REVEALED UPON HIS RETURN TO CLAIM HIS OWN

HAVE YOU SUBMITTED TO THE RULE OF THE COMING, CONQUERING KING?