

“Faces in the Crowd: Pontius Pilate” (John 19:7-16)

In one moment, Pontius Pilate found himself having to make a decision about what to do with Jesus Christ. There were many influencers at work, and ultimately the decision to have Jesus Christ crucified was made. Today we will get a good look at Pontius Pilate and from his situation see what we can learn about making the right decision when it’s our turn to do so.

Who was Pilate?

1. His name.
2. His job.
3. His approach to leading.
4. His moment with Jesus.

Pilate’s decision was made in the midst of four clamorings and claims (John 19:7-16).

1. The claim _____ (John 19:7, John 14:6-7).
2. The clamoring _____ (John 19:10-11).
3. The claim _____ (John 19:12).
4. The clamoring _____ (John 19:15).

Two helps for making a godly decision.

1. Determine which _____ is God’s will.
 - a. The *Bible* will help us to know God’s will (Psalm 119:105).
 - b. God promises to give us wisdom if we just ask Him in *prayer*, believing that He will give it (James 1:5-6).
 - c. God has given us the *Holy Spirit* for guidance (John 16:13a).
2. Decide _____ you have to (Daniel 3:16-18).

Faces in the Crowd- Pontius Pilate
John 19:7-16

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- **1 Corinthians 15:14-19 (NIV)**

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

- Who was Pilate?
His name

- His job

- His approach to leading

- His moment with Jesus

Pilate's Decision was made in the midst of four clamorings and claims...(John 19:7-16)

1. The Claim of Jesus...

- **John 19:7 (NIV)**

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."*

- **John 14:6-7 (NIV)**

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

2. The Clamoring of a Self Made Man

- *Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above... John 19:10-11*

3. The Claim of Rome

- **John 19:12 (NIV)**

¹² *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."*

4. The Clamoring of the Crowds

- ¹⁵ *But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. **John 19:15***

Two helps for making a godly decision...

1. Determine which voice is God's Will...

- **The *Bible* will help us to know God's will.**

"Your word is a **lamp** to my feet and a light for my path" (**Psalm 119:105**).

- **God promises to give us wisdom if we just ask Him in *prayer*, believing that He will give it.**

James 1:5-6 (NIV)

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

- **God has given us the *Holy Spirit* for guidance.**

"...when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth..." (**John 16:13a**).

2. Decide _____ before _____ you have to.

Daniel 3:16-18 (NIV)

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."