

**Continuing in the Word,
"The Road to the Resurrection: In Pilate's Court," John 18:28-19:16**
http://www.wishkahchurch.org/audio_sermons/audio_sermons.htm

As we observe Pilate questioning Jesus we find what commitment to Christ is not. Pilate knew Jesus was innocent of treason yet wouldn't release Him in the face of the Jew's animosity. Pilate knew that the Jews accused Jesus of claiming He was the Son of God, but Pilate cared more for the things of this world, and thus didn't search out the truth. Pilate was willing to make an effort to have Jesus released, but not if it came at a price to himself. In the end Pilate chose placating the Jewish leaders, protecting his own position and ambitious desires.

If we turn Pilate's negative example around we find that being committed to Christ is standing for Him in the face of the world's animosity. It is turning our backs on the things of this world to seek out Christ with all that we are. It is following Jesus at any cost. It is choosing Jesus above any other thing and above any other person, especially ourselves.

Scripture is full of passages encouraging us to such a life:

- Matthew 16:24,25, *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."*
- Galatians 2:20, *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."*
- Hebrews 12:1,2, *"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

Pilate couldn't be committed to Christ because Pilate couldn't forget about himself and the world around him. It is a tough struggle to forget! Our fallen flesh does not want to be forgotten. Paul tells us in Galatians 5:17: *"The flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another..."* But though there is a struggle between the flesh and the Spirit, the fact remains that we can choose to walk according to the Spirit of God. God living in us is greater than our fallen flesh. We can be overcomers through the strength that God supplies. The question we are

then faced with on a daily basis is, will we choose to live according to the Holy Spirit and be committed to Christ, or will we choose to live according to the flesh and be committed to self?

It is my prayer as we worship the Lord this Good Friday, and as we celebrate His resurrection this Sunday that we will be reminded of His great sacrifice and His great victory and that we will be spurred on into deeper commitment to Jesus Christ!

Pastor Jim