

Not Guilty

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-6 AP: Children's Ministry. Mothers Day. The Stir. 3rd-5th Camp. HS Camp.
- B. Slide7 Israel Info Mtg for tour March 2018: Next Sun, Mercy rm 1:30pm. Brochures info booth.
- C. Slide8 Children at Risk: Next Sun, Debbie Martis from Rebirth Homes.
- D. Slide9 Church Baptism: Sun June 11th. Need to attend a baptism class, Sun 6/4 or Wed 6/7.
- E. Slide10-15 Haiti: HEF Pastors Conf.
- F. Slide16 Message for Moms - Maybe your husband...maybe your kids..haven't esteemed/honored you...but God has!
 - 1. Even if you're not the perfect mom. Remember the 4 mentioned in Jesus' genealogy (where usually women weren't mentioned, HS says, *I want these in*): **Tamar the deceiving widow. Rahab the prostitute. Ruth the pagan daughter in law. & Bathsheba the adulterous.** 4 women/mothers who weren't perfect, who had a past...whom God loved. He wants all moms esteemed, even moms w/a past, or moms that weren't perfect.
- G. Pray for Moms: Please stand that we might esteem, recognize, & honor you today.
 - 1. Daily strength. Dignity your position warrants. Wisdom guiding your children. Honor for sacrifice given. Guided by grace. Respect your office deserves.

II. Slide17 **Intro:**

- A. This was a very busy morning...
 - 1. Jesus was to be on the cross by 9am. They had their make-shift hasty trial at Caiaphas' house, in the wee hours of the night. Now the Jewish council reconvened in the morning & delivered their **official verdict** against Jesus.
 - 2. Since they couldn't exercise **Capital Punishment**, off to Pilate's He is sent.
- B. Last week, Peter yielded to **the flesh** when he denied his Lord. Judas yielded to **the devil** in his great sin. This week, Pilate yielded to **the world** by listening to the crowd.

III. Slide18a **JESUS BOUND? (1,2)**

A. **Bound Him** - Just as *Isaac* was bound before he was laid upon the altar.

1. **Both in their prime. Both in submission.** Jesus submitting to *His reason 4 coming*

B. **Bound Him?** - They actually bound the **hands that** had stopped waves. Hushed Wind. Stayed storms. **Hands that** turned water into wine & multiplied bread. **Hands that** dealt w/ diseases, touched/healed Lepers, & turned mud into Healing Ointments. **Hands that** opened deaf ears. Loosed a tongue w/an impediment. **Hands that** even raised the Dead.

1. **They bound Him, who came to loose those bound. Bound w/demons, infirmities, and those bound with sin? - They bound Him...with what?**

a) The only thing that kept Him bound was...His obedience to the Father & His love for us.

2. **Slide18b Jesus** could have easily snapped those **cords** like *Samson* did to the **Philistine ropes.** **But** there were **other cords** that bound Him...

a) The cables of *covenant agreements, oaths, promises.* The **zip-tie bond** of His **love to you & I.**

IV. Slide19a **JUDAS' REMORSE (3-10)**

A. (3) **Remorse** (sorrow) - Nothing wrong with the word itself. **It was used of the young man who told his dad *no he wouldn't go work in the field,* then felt remorse & went.** It's not **the word but the result** we need to look at.

1. **Slide19b Remember from last week...Regret** (involves just the **mind**).

Remorse (involves the **mind & emotions**...we feel terrible).

Repentance (involves the changing of the **mind, the emotions, & the will i.e. turning away from sin**)

2. **Peter** felt **remorse/sorrow** & it led Peter back to Jesus side. **Judas** felt **remorse** & it led him to suicide.

3. **Repentance** always moves us towards God, **it seeks Him.**

Remorse brings **hopelessness, desperation, a feeling of worthlessness.**

B. (4) One good result that came out of this confession was towards **Jesus not Judas.** It proved again His innocence.

1. **Listen skeptics:** here is a man that ate, slept next to, lived with, & traveled with Jesus day-n-night for 3 yrs. **And he could not find one flaw in Him. And now would be the time to bring one out.**
2. **But** even ***the traitor*** in his dying speech **declared His innocence.**

V. Slide20 **PILATE ARRESTED By Jesus' Patience (11-14)**

- A. (11, intro) **Jesus was accused of 3 things:** (from Lk.23:2)
 1. **1)** Misleading the nation. **2)** forbidding to pay taxes. **3)** claiming to be King.
 2. Pilate's focus was on ***the 3rd charge***, **because** this was a definite threat against Rome.
 - a) If he handles this properly, Pilate could **please the Jews & impress the Emperor at the same time.**
- B. (14) **Pilate marveled greatly** - Jesus wouldn't stand up for Himself. He said nothing. Accusation after accusation still no defending Himself?
 1. Pilate was arrested by **Jesus Patience!**
- C. **Patient silence. Calm endurance.**
 1. He had much to say to **mankind**. **Not** a single word for **Himself**.
 2. No mans **spoke** like Jesus. **No** man was **silent** like Him.
 3. **Nothing to say** to stop the slaughter of His sacred body.
 4. **The best apologists for Christianity in the early days were its *martyrs*.**
 5. **The anvil breaks a host of hammers by quietly bearing their blows.**

VI. Slide21a **PILATE ARRESTED By Jesus' Purity (15-26)**

- A. (15) One more scheme up Pilate's sleeve...***the tradition of Releasing a prisoner.***
[something California has adopted & perfected, our ***catch & release program*** of prisoners because of jail over-crowding]
- B. Pilate hoped for the ***popularity*** of Jesus among the people...***Jesus or this ISIS captive?***
- C. **You cannot stay neutral in what you think of Jesus. And, can never rely on the popular opinion of the people.**
 1. Pilate knew what was right, **but** refused to do anything about it.

2. **Slide21b** As a **Governor** he was supposed to uphold the law. As a **Politician** he knew he had to get along w/the people. **But as a Man** he one day would have to stand in judgment for his soul.
- He looked for *the easy way*, **not** *the right way*.
 - He has gone down in history as, *the man who condemned Jesus*.

VII. Slide22a **PILATES WIFE'S DREAM (19)**

- (19) Here was an *unlooked-for witness* to the **innocence** of Christ...Pilate's wife.
- History and literature of the Roman Empire is full of reports of dream prophecies, dream ghosts and dream gods.**
- Slide22b** Surely this would have reminded Pilate of *the dream of another Roman woman, before a very critical day*. It was Julius Caesar's wife, **Calpurnia**, who having seen her husband before her in a dream, covered with wounds & streaming w/blood, entreated him not to leave his house for the Roman Senate on *the Ides of March*. **He did & was assassinated.**
- Adam** sinned by *listening* to his wife. **Pilate** sinned by **not** *listening* to his wife.
- I think we'll meet Pilate's wife in Heaven.** She had some *Staying Power*...even when her husband didn't deserve her by his side.
 - She had such a **strong conviction** of **right & wrong**.
 - She had the **courage** to testify to **Jesus' righteousness & innocence**.
 - We know her story in **only 21 words**.
 - Tradition says**, she leaned toward Judaism & may have been a Jewish Proselyte & a secret follower of Jesus.
 - Slide22c** Later Christian tradition has given her the name *Claudia Procula*, meaning, *follower at the gate*. [some authorities have identified her w/*Claudia* in **2 Tim.4:21** who was no doubt *a Roman Christian*]
 - The Greek Orthodox Church* canonized her & set aside **Oct.27th** as her feast day.
 - So she sends a message to her husband, at the most important trial the world has ever seen...**not** to condemn Jesus.
 - She was *the only person* who came to the defense of Jesus while He was on trial.

- b) With a women's **delicate intuition** she had sensed the approaching evil, & with a wife's concern she had tried to *save her husband from this terrible decision to put a just man to death*. Her intervention caused Pilate to hesitate & once more to give the mob its choice, **but** they chose to crucify Jesus.
5. In her dream she awoke with 2 convictions: that *Jesus was an innocent man* & that her husband would be *inviting disaster* if he took action against him.
- Both were true. Pilate had admitted, *I have found no fault in this man*. And, her husband's administration ended abruptly.
 - He was banished to *Southern France* where he ultimately committed *suicide*.
 - Pilates wife *stayed* with him to the end. Lovingly supporting him. Truthfully encouraging him to do right. Allowing him to make wrong decisions. *She Stayed*.
- F. A wife may have insight that a husband lacks, & therefore, it is wise to listen to her.
- Remember**, God could have just as easily gave **Pilate** the dream, **but** He chose to communicate it through his wife.
 - Although Pilate's wife **does not** succeed in convincing her husband, she rightly gives him her opinion. Spouses should regard their mates input as valuable. **Remember**, our spouses bring us different perspectives, & considering the other point of view helps us see life with 2 sets of eyes instead of 1. *Max Lucado's*
- G. It is a mystery why God allowed the record of her dream to be recorded by Matthew. It almost seems totally *irrelevant*, **for** Pilate does not seem to have been impressed, **and** as far as we know it had no effect on the outcome of the trial of Jesus.
- So why is it here?** For one, we can look at Matthew's interest in dreams.
 - He is *the dream collector* of the NT. The word for dream here is *onar*, and it is used just 6 times in the NT, & all 6 come from the pen of Mt.
 - 5 of the 6 dreams deal with *the birth & childhood of Jesus* (4 to Joseph, 1 to wisemen).
 - Only the dream of Pilate's wife deals with *the other end of his life*, His trial & death
- H. It is only speculation, but even the great Spurgeon agrees that it is likely Claudia saw in her dream *the crucifixion*. *She states clearly that she suffered, and what could her suffering had been but the vision of this innocent man being crucified unjustly.*
- Slide22d** God's plea for His Son through Claudia was, **"Not guilty!"**

VIII. Slide23 EVERYONE'S QUESTION (22-25)

- A. (22) He asks *the crowd* but again doesn't ask his own conscience, *What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?* - Everyone's eternity teeters on this one question.
- B. (24) The *outward rites* will never cleanse the *impure soul*.
1. Some run to church for a whole month of Sundays in a row.
Some use a patterned prayer, almost like a rabbits foot.
Some start doing extra good deeds to relieve their guilt.
 2. Oh, Mr. Pilate your on the right track. You need cleansing, but you need something stronger than water to wash that blood off your hands.
 - a) You need the washing of the very blood you're about to spill.
 - b) Agur said in Pr 30:12 *There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, Yet is not washed from its filthiness.* (sounds like Pilate)
- C. What then shall I do w/Jesus who is called Christ? Ask Him to wash you of your sins this very morning. Ask Him to be Lord of your life.

IX. Slide24 BARABBAS' RELEASE (26)

- A. WHO WAS BARABBAS? Bar/abbas = son of/the father.
- B. He had made insurrection (open revolt against civil authority) against Rome.
1. And in the rebellion had committed murder.
 2. In the eyes of the Emperor he would be considered a dangerous political prisoner. (a Terrorist)
- C. Jesus was delivered. Barabbas was released.
1. Jesus delivered bound, delivered unto death.
 2. Barabbas released unto freedom, released to life.
- D. Barabbas should have died for his crime but Jesus occupied his cross.
1. Then the words of Pilate & then the soldier, *Barabbas...you're free!*
 - a) Free??? Yes, another is to die in your place.
- E. WHAT HAS BARABBAS DONE? [Adapted from Judah Smith's message on Barabbas]

1. He deserves this. He's a bad man. He's a thug. A terrorist. He should be on death row. He's a rebel for wrong. He led a rebellion. He murdered people. He deserves this. He deserves the chains. He deserves crucifixion. He deserves death He deserves hell.

F. WHAT HAS JESUS DONE?

1. He **didn't** deserves this. He's a good man. He heals. He restores. Delivers. Sets free. Opens blind eyes & deaf ears. Heals the lame & the leper.

G. THIS ISN'T FAIR

1. There seems to be **no conscience** w/Barabbas.
2. We **don't** see him turn to Jesus saying, *I owe you everything now, for you have set me free.*

H. (Jesus) It's ok Father, let them have Barabbas.

1. He knew the Father would have to treat **Jesus** like **Barabbas** so He could treat **Barabbas** like **Jesus**.
2. **Remember**, this is all about **Jesus going to the cross**.
3. **(Jesus)** *Yes, let them have Barabbas, Take me!*
4. What a picture of **divine Grace** this **substitutionary death** presents.
 - a) **Substitution** = *The just for the unjust*.
 - b) **Vicarious** – *Taking the place of another*. [Vicar=substitute]
 - c) Barabbas could say, *He died for me*.

I. Slide25 I'M SURE BARABBAS THOUGHT **THE PEOPLE** SET HIM FREE.

1. **The people** didn't set Barabbas free. **Pilate** didn't set Barabbas free. **It was ONLY the Love of the Father** that set Barabbas free.
2. (God the Father) *I Love Barabbas. I wanted him to go free.*
 - a) (me) **WHAT?** but he's **bad** man.
3. (Father) *But I Love Barabbas. I wanted him to go free.*
 - a) (me) **But didn't you know** he probably will never acknowledge the free gift?
4. (Father) Yeah, but I love him. Brian remember, *For while you were still a sinner Christ died for you?*

a) (me) So You are saying you sent Your Son Jesus, *for Barabbas*, even the one who would *walk away from* Jesus, and His free gift, & never come back?

5. (Father) *I Love Barabbas. I wanted him to go free.*

J. WHO IS THIS BARABBAS REALLY?

1. Barabbas is **you...its me...its us**. *We are Barabbas.*

2. How many times have I stood on that platform w/Pilate & Jesus, and I'm Barabbas. And they started to take my chains off. And I say, *No, No. I deserve this. I deserve the guilt. I deserve the shame. I deserve the consequence. I deserve it.*

a) And Jesus responds, *No son. Let me have it. Let me have your sin. Let me have your pain.*

b) (me) No God, I did this to myself. I deserve this. I deserve poverty. I deserve sickness. **NO!**

c) (me) But God I'm so ashamed. (Jesus) Give Me your shame.

(me) But what if I do it again. (Jesus) I'll still be here again.

(me) God I don't want to do this anymore. (Jesus) Give Me your sins son.

(1) This is all **we** got. It's all **I** got. It's all **you** got...*It's God alone.*

K. JESUS IS ENOUGH

1. Your greatest challenge is **not** *your discipline, your devotion, your focus.*
Your greatest challenge is *believing the gospel.*

2. **Could there be that there's a God with a love** so scandalous. *So wide. So deep. So vast. So high. So expansive. So welcoming.*

a) **Just give me your sin son/daughter.** And you do.

(1) Then you see him walking now to the post to be whipped. **While you stand a free man/woman.** He says go son/daughter, live your life. **Be free.** I'll pay the price.

b) **His blood** is sufficient **for** your salvation. **His blood** is sufficient **to** sustain you... *through every challenge & every sin & every temptation.*

(1) **JESUS IS ENOUGH**