

PILATE'S WIFE

Pontius Pilate's wife is only revealed to us in one verse in Matthew 27. But the weight of her words are not to be minimized. Had Pilate heeded her admonition to release Jesus because of her dream, the story of Christ would have turned out very differently.

¹⁵ Now it was the governor's custom each year during the Passover celebration to release one prisoner to the crowd – anyone they wanted. ¹⁶ This year there was a notorious prisoner, and man named Barabbas. ¹⁷ As the crowds gathered before Pilate's house that morning, he asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you – Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" ¹⁸ (He knew very well that the religious leaders had arrested Jesus out of envy.) ¹⁹ Just then, as Pilate was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent him a message: "Leave that innocent man alone. I suffered through a terrible nightmare about Him last night."

-Matthew 27:15-19

APPLICATION

We know ultimately her words fell on deaf ears as Pilate allowed himself to be persuaded to release Barabbas and have Jesus severely flogged and crucified. Despite his power, Pilate was afraid to follow his judgement and his wife's strong advice to go against the crowd. She described Jesus as an innocent man and quite possibly, based on her nightmare, feared repercussions from God if she didn't act on her dream. Even still, Pilate ignored her warning, even ignored his own discernment and gave the order to crucify Jesus.

inundated by voices (internal and external) that shout out for us to make choices that in effect, perpetuate the crucifixion of Jesus. If we stop long enough to listen carefully, and then we're brave enough to respond, we'll hear another voice admonishing us to release Christ into each decision we face.

DISCUSSION/CONTEMPLATION

- How hard is it to filter out all the voices to hear and obey the voice of God?

- Why do you think it was so difficult for an authority like Pontius Pilate to make the right choice?

- How might it have changed the narrative if Pilate had released Jesus?

D6-CUSSION

How do you have the courage to make the right choices? What helps you determine what the right choice is?

- What stands out to you the most?
- What questions do you have?
- What is an application for your life?

PRAYERS & PRAISE