

THE RULER WHO IGNORED HIS WIFE'S ADVICE MATTHEW 27

Text:

The greatest single chapter on conscience is Matthew 27

1. THE TORMENTED CONSCIENCE

(Matthew 27:1-5) When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: {2} And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor. {3} Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, {4} Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. {5} And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

A. Thirty pieces of conscience money

2. THE CONSCIENCE OF CONVENIENCE

(Matthew 27:6-8) And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. {7} And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. {8} Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

- A. Priests collected the thirty pieces which Judas threw down
- B. They piously used it for charity, to buy a potter's field

3. ENLIGHTENED CONSCIENCE

(Matthew 27:19) When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

- A. Pilate's wife had a sense of moral responsibility
- B. Not a nocturnal experience, but a struggle with conscience

4. A SEARED CONSCIENCE

(Matthew 27:24-26) When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. {25} Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children. {26} Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Steps to a seared conscience:

A. Conscience Awakened

(Matthew 27:11-14) And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest. {12} And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. {13} Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? {14} And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

B. Conscience struggling

(Matthew 27:15-18) Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom

they would. {16} And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas. {17} Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ? {18} For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

C. Conscience compromised

(Matthew 27:21-23) The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. {22} Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. {23} And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

D. Conscience Seared

(Matthew 27:24-26) When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. {25} Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children. {26} Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Conclusion:

Conscience can be a valuable guide to right moral decisions only if it is kept tender, enlightened and based on God's Word