

## The True King and the Weak Judge

Mark 15:1-15

- I. The True King: Jesus is the king, but of a different realm (Mark 15:1-5).
- A. The Sanhedrin sends Jesus to Pilate accusing Him of insurrection (15:1; Luke 23:2).
    - Jesus knew all this would happen (Mark 10:33-34). We know that everything difficult in our life is known by God.
  - B. Jesus answers Pilate, agreeing He is a king, but saying that His kingdom is not of this world (15:2; John 18:33-38).
    - On which kingdom do we focus – the temporal or eternal?
  - C. Jesus does not answer the Jews’ false accusations (15:3-5).
- II. The Weak Judge: Pilate tries to avoid making a decision, but gives in and condemns Jesus (Mark 15:6-15).  
(Pilate sends Jesus to Herod who gives no verdict Luke 23:5-12)
- A. Pilate’s Dilemma: Pilate asks if they want Jesus or Barabbas released and they ask for Barabbas (15:6-11).
    - Satan uses the intentional evil of a few to influence the unsuspecting many.
  - B. Pilate’s Decision: Pilate condemns Jesus to death – giving in the pressure of the people and chief priests (15:15).

**Pilate: Reluctant but Weak**

- Pilate knows the Jews condemned Jesus because of envy (15:10).
- Pilate knows Jesus wasn’t guilty of subverting Rome (Luke 23:2-5).
- Pilate’s wife advises him to not condemn Jesus (Matthew 27:19).
- Pilate fears that Jesus is the Son of God (John 9:7-12).
- Yet, Pilate gives in, “washing his hands” of Jesus’ fate, but condemning Jesus to death because He is afraid of the Jews (15:5).

- “Reluctant sin” is still sin. Our “reluctance” reveals that we thought it over and decided to do it anyway.
- Crucial spiritual decisions are determined either by our “fear of God” or our fear of people.