

SM041617

## You Can't Just Wash Your Hands of Jesus

Text – Matthew 27:1 - 26

Congregational Reading – Matthew 27:22 - 25

### Introduction

The message of Easter Sunday is that Jesus Christ who was dead and in a tomb for three days rose from the dead and is now still alive. That historically documented fact is the awesome news for you and I because it means that Jesus (God) has power over death and the grave.

The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the third piece to what we commonly call the gospel, which includes the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ:

*"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time." (1 Corinthians 15:1-8)*

The gospel is indeed good news:

We truly do serve a risen Saviour, and because He lives, we know that He has the power to give us life as well, and He says that He will give eternal life to all who put their faith in Him.

In late December, 1989, I put my faith in Jesus Christ as the living, risen Son of God, and because He lives, I know that I am spiritually alive also; and since He validated all of His claims by rising from the grave, I have assurance that someday I will be raised as well.

The resurrection isn't just good news, it's the best news there is. It is truly a day of celebration.

However, before you and I could fully identify with His resurrected life, we must first fully identify with His death.

**Read the Text – Matthew 27:1 - 26**

In our text, we read about the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate who tried to "wash his hands" from responsibility regarding the crucifixion of Christ. All four gospels tell us that Pilate was reluctant to have Jesus put to death. In the passage in Matthew (v. 19), we learned that Pilate's

wife had nightmares about what was going on with Jesus. She knew that He was a “just man”, which means that she knew He was completely innocent. By the way, historical tradition records that Pilate’s wife, Claudia, received the Lord Jesus Christ as her Savior.

John’s Gospel records that Pilate was afraid of Jesus.

Luke states that Pilate tried to release Jesus three times.

Though Pilate was reluctant to give the order, He did. He ordered the Son of God to be put to death by crucifixion.

It is amazing that nobody wants to admit responsibility for killing Jesus. The Jews blame it on Pilate, and Pilate blames it on the Jews; but, the truth of the matter is that it was all of us – you and me – we all put Jesus on that Cross; we are all guilty of his death with our sin. Jesus didn’t die on that Cross because some man decided to put Him on there, His death was determined in eternity past by God Himself to atone for the sins of the world – your sin and my sin put him on the Cross. You and I are responsible and we cannot wash our hands of that responsibility.

The Bottom Line is that:

Pilate was guilty

The Religious Leaders were guilty

The Crowd that shouted “crucify” was guilty.

Pilate’s wife was guilty.

You and I are also guilty

It was your sin and my sin that put Jesus on the Cross.

*"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." (1 Timothy 1:15)*

*"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*  
(Romans 5:8)

In order to be saved, we must take ownership of our sin. It has to become personal. Yes, Jesus died for the sins of the whole world; but, forget about everybody else, Jesus died for just me; Jesus died for just you. If that’s true, then just my sin put Him on the Cross. Just your sin put Him on the Cross.

**I      You Can’t Wash Your Hands from the Guilt of Your Sin**

You are a sinner. I am a sinner.

What is sin:

The transgression of the law.

Anything that is not done in faith.

The thought of foolishness.

There are sins of commission – things that we do.

There are sins of omission – things that we neglect to do.

We are all sinners. We are all guilty.

*“For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.”* (Ecclesiastes 7:20)

*“There is none righteous, no, not one:”* (Romans 3:10)

*“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”* (Romans 3:23)

We are guilty – it was your sin and my sin that put Jesus on the Cross, and we can't just wash our hands of it.

## II You Can't Wash Your Hands of Personally Receiving the Gift of Salvation

Since Jesus didn't just die for everybody generally, He died for you specifically, personally; you also must come to Him personally, and receive His gift of eternal life.

You must personally and individually come to Christ for salvation.

You are a sinner.

The wages of sin is death – eternal death – ultimately in Hell.

You must be saved.

*“the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* (Romans 3:23)

You must personally receive the gift. The gift is available to everybody, but you must receive it personally.

Read Romans 10:9 – 13

Jesus told Nicodemus that he needed to be born again, and He says the same to you. You must be born again. You must personally be born into God's family.

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock: **if any man** hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”* (Revelation 3:20)

The thief on the cross next to Jesus had to personally ask the Lord to remember him when he entered in the Kingdom.

The sinner had to personally pray, Lord be merciful to me, a sinner.

You cannot wash your hands of this. You must take personal responsibility, and make a personal decision to receive Christ.

### **III (Once You're Saved) You Can't Wash Your Hands of Returning Gratitude through Your Service**

#### **A By Being a Follower of His Word**

Once you are saved, God wants you to grow (mature) spiritually). Spiritual maturity can only come through an intimate relationship with the Word of God.

Read it, Study it, Obey It

#### **B By Being Faithful to His Will**

The Word of God will reveal the will of God. Find out what God wants you to do and do it.

Do the will of God from the Heart.

It is your personal responsibility as a Christian. You will someday stand before God individually and answer to God personally for what you did for Him once you were saved.

You cannot wash your hands of your personal responsibility of serving God.

Pilate tried to wash his hands of Jesus, but he couldn't. Neither can you.

You are guilty, like Pilate - don't try to wash your hands of it.

You personally need salvation – don't try to wash your hands of it.

If you are saved, you need to serve God – return gratitude – don't try to wash your hands of it.