



# Standing Tall When Outnumbered

**“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” (Matthew 27:11).**

Bulletin VCMT102

07 September 2022

“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. 15 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. 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. 20 But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. 21 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. 24 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” (Matthew 27:11-26).

There is a saying that when the going gets tough, only the tough ones keep going. Proverbs 24:10 points out that “If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small”. Many buckle under pressure, but not Jesus. In the harshest of situations, He maintained both His character, course and integrity. What a glorious example for all:

- 1) Before the governor, He confirmed His identity (vs 11) - something the Jews did not want to hear. He did not minimise His response to as-

**“And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing” (Matthew 27:12).**

suage His accusers in the hope of securing a release.

- 2) When falsely accused and challenged by Pilate, He answered nothing (vs 12), even to the amazement of the Governor (vs 12-14). There is power in silence, and some silences speak louder than words.
- 3) Pilate knew that the Jews delivered Jesus to him because of envy (vs 18); therefore, he gambled with their custom of prisoner release with the hope that they will chose Jesus rather than a criminal (vs 15-17); but this failed woefully as the chief priests and elders persuaded the people that they should ask Barabbas and destroy Jesus (vs 20,21,22).
- 4) Pilates wife, warned in a dream, tried to dissuade Pilate from crucifying Him, but Pilate was helpless with the insane irrational mob (vs 19).
- 5) In exasperation, Pilate asked **“What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?”** (vs 22). This is an important question that each of us must answer personally and practically by our lives in relation to Biblical demands.
- 6) Their choice to destroy Jesus, baffled Pilate so much to the point of asking “Why, what evil hath he done?” - a sure proof that Jesus was sinless.
- 7) Perceiving that he was powerless to deliver justice due to the pressure from the irate mob, and that the Jews volunteered to bear the guilt of Jesus’ blood, “he delivered him to be crucified” (vs 24-26).

This was Pilates own answer to his question “What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?”. He could not stand tall under the pressure when tempted. It is now your turn to answer that same question by your life? What is your answer? May God depend on you!