



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Judgment!

Matthew 27:1-25

Message #76 of 80 – S1117

Sermon given on September 1, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Judgment!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 27**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Judgment!**
- This morning, we are going to look at the account of Jesus standing before Pilate.
- Based on the accusations the religious Jews bring against Jesus, Pilate asks Him about who He is.
- Questions are a part of life.
- We start asking questions almost as soon as we can talk.
- The questions we ask prove our maturity, knowledge, and wisdom.
- When your five-year-old grandson asks you why he can't jump off the roof of the house with cardboard wings, he is proving his brain is not fully developed.
- Some questions are not really that important.
- Like, why does Chuck always sit in that seat? Who cares? He does!
- Other questions are much more important. Like, what is a woman?
- For millennia, everyone knew the answer to that question.
- Today, a large percentage of 'modern' people struggle or refuse to answer that question.
- And because people are getting this question wrong it is creating division and chaos in the culture and world.
- But there are some questions that are so important that they will determine where someone spends eternity.
- One of those questions is, 'Who is Jesus?'
- Everyone in our text today will get that question wrong.
- **Matthew 27:1-2**

- The Jews were waiting (most are still waiting) for the Messiah, or Christ, to come and save them from their enemies.
- During the night they had accused Jesus of blasphemy for claiming to be equal with God.
- They asked Jesus the right question, “Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!” They didn’t like or accept Jesus’ answer.
- They wanted a Christ, but not a Christ who looked and acted like Jesus.
- It is no different today, people want a Christ of their own making.
- Jewish law calls for the death penalty in cases of blasphemy.
- But the Romans have forbidden the Jews to execute anyone.
- They come up with charges they can use to convince the Romans to execute Jesus.
- Luke’s gospel tells us what they came up with (**Luke 23:2**).

And they began to accuse Him, saying, “We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.”

- Pilate focused on the last part, “a King.”
- But first, back at the temple.
- **Matthew 27:3-4a**
- The Bible never clearly states Judas’ motivation for betraying Jesus.
- Both Luke and John’s gospels say that Satan entered Judas during the Last Supper (**John 13:27**).

Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.”

- Some have suggested that Judas was trying to force Jesus to establish His kingdom on the earth.
- He may have wanted Jesus to be the King Judas wanted. Maybe!
- Once Satan possessed Judas, there was nothing he could do to stop what was coming.
- Once Judas completed his devilish work Satan left him and then started whispering in his ear about how wretched his betrayal was.
- Satan is always a liar (**John 8:44**).

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

- And he has but three goals for humanity (**John 10:10**).
- The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.
- Judas has been used by the Devil and is a broken man.
 - Judas goes into the courts of the temple and confesses that he has sinned. He has falsely accused an innocent Man.
 - **Matthew 27:4b**
 - The religious leaders of the nation of Israel respond by saying, “So! What is that to us!”
 - As a pastor, I can’t imagine ever saying that to someone God has humbled and brought face-to-face with their sin.
 - I believe it would be my role to help sinners get right with God.
 - **Matthew 27:5-8**
 - Why did Judas hang himself? He admitted/confessed that he sinned by betraying Jesus.
 - He hung himself because he believed he had committed an unforgivable sin. But was it unforgivable? No!
 - He felt regret, but he hadn’t repented.
 - If Judas had repented, Jesus would have forgiven him.
 - God’s grace and mercy are amazing.
 - If we will confess and repent, God will forgive us (**1 John 1:9**).
- If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- By hanging himself, Judas closed the door on God’s grace and mercy.
 - As long as there is life, there is hope!
 - Matthew then reminds us that God knew this was going to happen with Judas.
 - **Matthew 27:9-11**
 - Turn to **John 18** where we see an expanded accounting of this part of the conversation.
 - By saying, ‘It is as you say.’ Jesus is saying yes, I am a King.
 - **John 18:33-37**
 - Turn back to **Matthew 27**.
 - Jesus is saying that He is a King, but not in the way Pilate understands.

- Jesus didn't come to establish His kingdom on the earth like Judas probably wanted Him to, He came to make a way for people to enter His kingdom (**John 14:6**).

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

- Then something familiar happens.
- **Matthew 27:12-14**
- The charges were meaningless to Christ.
- He was going to the cross and He didn't need to defend His honor.
- What was coming was foreordained by God and Jesus was okay with that. Pilate is caught in a dilemma.
- He can see that Jesus is not guilty of anything worthy of execution.
- But Pilate can also see that the Jewish religious leaders are determined to see Jesus dead.
- Pilate was assigned the role of governor represent the interests of Rome and keep the peace in Israel.
- He is trying to find a way to release Jesus and keep the people of Israel from rioting.
- **Matthew 27:15-18**
- Barabbas was an insurrectionist and murderer.
- He was the worst criminal they had in the prison.
- Pilate's hope may have been that if they compare Barabbas and Jesus, they will choose Jesus.
- Then a surprising character pops in for a brief moment.
- **Matthew 27:19**
- Pilate was drawn into this horrid affair early in the day.
- His wife was awakened later by a terrifying dream.
- She refers to Jesus as a just Man – a righteous Man.
- This further reinforces Pilate's view that Jesus is not worthy of death.
- **Matthew 27:20-22**
- Hatred motivated by false religious ideology is grotesque.
- We are seeing this same kind of hatred in many of the activist cults of our time, the abortion cult, the climate change cult, the gender ideology cult, and since October 7th, the Palestinian freedom cult.

- None of these are actually religious movements as we typically would understand them but the way they respond to anyone who would oppose them is just like this mob screaming at Pilate to crucify Jesus.
 - Pilate is struggling to understand why they hate Jesus so much.
 - Who is this carpenter from Nazareth that He stirs up such hate.
 - **Matthew 27:23-24**
 - Pilate could not afford for a bad report to get back to Rome that he was not able to keep the people of Jerusalem from rioting.
 - Washing his hands was a way cleansing himself or separating himself from the whole thing.
 - He didn't want the blood of an innocent Man on his hands.
 - Unfortunately for Pilate, no amount of water could cleanse him of this wicked act. Only the blood of Christ could cleanse him.
 - Sadly, history says Pilate died in his sins.
 - **Matthew 27:25**
 - Pilate tried to get out of the responsibility of executing an innocent Man.
 - The Jews then gleefully took that responsibility onto themselves and their children after.
 - I wonder how many of them would have been so quick to claim that responsibility if they knew what it was going to cost them.
 - In 70 AD, the Roman General Titus laid siege to Jerusalem and wiped it out which began almost two thousand years of Jews being dispersed and persecuted all around the globe.
 - Even though they persist in their rejection of Jesus as their Messiah, God will not allow them to be destroyed.
 - God is not done with the Jews.
 - He has a plan to bring them into His kingdom.
 - Who is Jesus?
 - As believers, we ought to have a pretty clear idea of who Jesus is. He is the Christ, the Son of the God, the Creator of all that exists, the Atonement for my sins, lover of my soul.
- How important is it that we know who Jesus is? Who He really is?
(Hebrews 6:19-20)

This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil, ²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, *even Jesus*, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

- Jesus is the anchor of my soul.
- And because Jesus is my anchor, I know who I am.
- Jesus stood before Pilate as the mob falsely accused Him of one thing after another and He remained silent.
- It stunned Pilate because he didn't know who Jesus was.
- The crowd did not know who Jesus was.
- But Jesus knew who He was, and He stood there unwavering and without fear.
- Brothers and sisters, there is a truth the rest of the world does not know.
- You cannot truly know yourself until you know Christ Jesus.
- And the better you know Christ, the better you will understand who you are in Christ.
- And the better you understand who you are in Christ the better you will understand your place in this world.
- There are a lot of people in this world who are confused or mistaken about a great many things.
- We shouldn't be – we have a heavenly Father who loves us, God the Holy Spirit living in us, God the Son saving us, and the Word of God guiding us.
- The next time identifies themselves to you with their pronouns, understand that is how they are trying to communicate with you who they are.
- If they ask you what your pronouns are, tell them Child of God and Follower of Christ.
- That is who we are!
- And if we can grow in our faith, we will stand like Jesus as the world rages around us in His perfect peace.
- Who is Jesus? He is everything to me! Who is He to you?
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us grow our faith!
- **Pray! Last Song!**