

## From Fear To Failure *Pilate's Path To Damnation*

### The Hard Truth About Hard Decisions:

Leaders have to choose **WHO** they lose.

All of us have to choose **WHAT** we lose.

### Did Pilate Have A Choice?

Knowing **WHAT** will **HAPPEN** is not the same thing as **MAKING** it **HAPPEN**.

### Pilate's Horrific Decision

John 19:1-6/ Matthew 27:19-22 (See also John 18:28-40)

### Making The Right Choice

#### *Five Things To Keep In Mind When Making A Costly And Hard Decision*

1. Fear is not **FAILURE**.

Matthew 26:38-39/ Joshua 1:5-9/ Judges 7:7-11

2. Failure is not **FINAL** until it's **FINAL**.

John 18:25-27/ John 19:38

3. It's always better to lose what I cannot **KEEP**  
to gain what I cannot **LOSE**.

Matthew 10:28

4. If doing the right thing kills my **DREAM**,  
it probably would have been a **NIGHTMARE**.

Matthew 6:31-33

5. If doing the right thing costs me what I currently **HAVE** and **LOVE**,  
I'll always end up with far **MORE** than I **GAVE UP**.

Matthew 19:29-30/ Matthew 6:31-33/ Genesis 13:8-15/ Philippians 2:3-9/ 1 Timothy 6:17

### WHO AND WHAT DO YOU FEAR MOST?

Proverbs 1:7 & 9:10/ Proverbs 29:25/ Psalm 112:1

1. Losing **WHAT I HAVE**
2. Missing out on **WHAT I WANT**
3. The fear of **MAN**
4. The fear of **GOD**

## From Fear To Failure *Pilate's Path To Damnation*

### **The Hard Truth About Hard Decisions:**

Leaders have to choose \_\_\_\_\_ they lose.

All of us have to choose \_\_\_\_\_ we lose.

### **Did Pilate Have A Choice?**

Knowing \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ is not the same thing as \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Pilate's Horrific Decision**

John 19:1-6/ Matthew 27:19-22 (See also John 18:28-40)

### **Making The Right Choice**

#### ***Five Things To Keep In Mind When Making A Costly And Hard Decision***

1. Fear is not \_\_\_\_\_.  
Matthew 26:38-39/ Joshua 1:5-9/ Judges 7:7-11
2. Failure is not \_\_\_\_\_ until it's \_\_\_\_\_.  
John 18:25-27/ John 19:38
3. It's always better to lose what I cannot \_\_\_\_\_  
to gain what I cannot \_\_\_\_\_.  
Matthew 10:28
4. If doing the right thing kills my \_\_\_\_\_,  
it probably would have been a \_\_\_\_\_.  
Matthew 6:31-33
5. If doing the right thing costs me what I currently \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,  
I'll always end up with far \_\_\_\_\_ than I \_\_\_\_\_.  
Matthew 19:29-30/ Matthew 6:31-33/ Genesis 13:8-15/ Philippians 2:3-9/ 1 Timothy 6:17

### **WHO AND WHAT DO YOU FEAR MOST?**

Proverbs 1:7 & 9:10/ Proverbs 29:25/ Psalm 112:1

1. Losing \_\_\_\_\_
2. Missing out on \_\_\_\_\_
3. The fear of \_\_\_\_\_
4. The fear of \_\_\_\_\_

## Life Group Study Questions

For the week of November 12, 2023

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

### MY STORY

1. We've all had dreams or desires for our lives that just didn't come to pass. Can you think of any that, looking back now, you're so glad didn't happen? If so, explain.

2. This week, we heard how Pilate knew the right thing to do but was afraid of the cost and unable to see the long-term benefit of making the right decision. What are some common hard or costly decisions we are faced with in life and in following Jesus?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. As the person leading the Israelites out of captivity, there's no doubt Moses had to make many hard decisions that required confidence and willingness to take a stand. As you read Exodus 3:11-4:17, what do you learn about Moses and identify with when it comes to making right decisions that aren't easy?

#### **Exodus 3:11-4:17 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

<sup>12</sup> And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup> Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.'"

"This is my name forever,  
the name you shall call me  
from generation to generation.

<sup>16</sup> "Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. <sup>17</sup> And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.'

<sup>18</sup> "The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the LORD our God.' <sup>19</sup> But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. <sup>20</sup> So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go.

<sup>21</sup> "And I will make the Egyptians favorably disposed toward this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. <sup>22</sup> Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians."

<sup>4</sup> Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?"

<sup>2</sup> Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?"

"A staff," he replied.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground."

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. <sup>5</sup> "This," said the LORD, "is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you."

<sup>6</sup> Then the LORD said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow.

<sup>7</sup> "Now put it back into your cloak," he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.

<sup>8</sup> Then the LORD said, "If they do not believe you or pay attention to the first sign, they may believe the second. <sup>9</sup> But if they do not believe these two signs or listen to you, take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground. The water you take from the river will become blood on the ground."

<sup>10</sup> Moses said to the LORD, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue."

<sup>11</sup> The LORD said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the LORD?" <sup>12</sup> Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

<sup>13</sup> But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else."

<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. <sup>15</sup> You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. <sup>16</sup> He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. <sup>17</sup> But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it."

What do you notice about God's response to Moses?

2. None of us want to be held back from making the right decision. But sometimes, it's just not easy. What about the following verses encourages you to power through and make the right call?

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

**Mark 8:34-36 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

**Matthew 10:29-31 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. <sup>30</sup> And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

3. One of the keys to following through on what God has clearly called us to do is understanding what's holding us back or clouding our view of how God wants to continue to work in and through us. Looking back at this weekend's message...

...Which of the five things to keep in mind is most helpful for you to remember when making hard decisions?

...When you think about who and what you fear the most, we know the fear of God is what He desires. Which of the other three on the note sheet do you find yourself most tempted to fear? Can you think of any specific examples?

### TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at this week's teaching, what's most important for you to remember?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

→

→

→

→



**COMMUNITY  
SERVICE**

#### IMPACT YOUR COMMUNITY

Looking to serve with your Life Group?

To check out all your options, go to [NorthCoastCommunityService.org](https://NorthCoastCommunityService.org).

*Look for Thanksgiving and Christmas Projects!*