

BIBLE WOMEN – NEW TESTAMENT
Mary and Martha – Wife of Pontius Pilate
Lesson 19 – By Beverly McKey

I. Martha and Mary – Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-44

- A. The account of Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus help us to see the very human side of Jesus Christ.
1. They were more than disciples of Jesus, they were actually His friends.
 2. They lived in Bethany, which was two miles east of Jerusalem (Bethlehem was six miles south of Jerusalem).
 3. The home of Mary and Martha was a refuge for Jesus and the disciples when they were working in the area around Jerusalem.
- B. The first time we see Mary and Martha in **Luke 10:38** it is approximately half way through the ministry of Jesus.
1. Jesus was in their city (Bethany) and Martha had invited him into her home.
 2. Martha's sister, Mary, was also there also, but she sat at the feet of Jesus listening to every word He said.
 3. Martha was very busy preparing food for the large group and she was irritated that Mary was not offering to help with the work.
 4. It seems that this was not the first time Mary and Martha had met Jesus since Martha spoke to Him so casually.
 - a. Martha went to Jesus and said, *"Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone Therefore, tell her to help me."* **Vs. 40**
 - b. The response Jesus gave seems a little harsh, but it was not intended that way. **Luke 10:41-42** – "⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said to her, *"Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. ⁴² But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."*
 - 1) Jesus was simply reminding Martha that there were two good activities to choose from at that moment:
 - a) One was to prepare physical food for the group
 - b) The other was to receive spiritual that Jesus offered
 - 2) One of those activities was more necessary than the other and Mary had chosen that one.
 - 3) Jesus would not ask Mary to give up her spiritual feast in order to help Martha prepare the physical feast.
 - c. It wasn't that Martha's faith in Jesus was less than Mary's, she had just let the duties of the day take a higher priority.
 - 1) Who hasn't had that problem at one time or another in life.
 - 2) We often let the important get in the way of the urgent.
 - 3) Those "everyday" chores and deadlines are always looming in front of us crying "pick me", "pick me".

- 4) Too often our spiritual nourishment is postponed day after day until we may finally stop including it in the plans for our day at all.
 - d. Jesus knew that Mary and Martha had obligations to attend to as hostesses in their home, but He also knew that those chores would still be there when He had gone away. Then they would have plenty of time for the physical chores.
 - e. We should keep that in mind when we have an opportunity to choose a spiritual feast (such as gospel meetings, personal Bible study, regular worship activities, lectureships, Ladies ½ Day even Ladies Bible Class).
 - f. Our chores will still be there after we have set aside the time for spiritual renewal.
- C. Mary and Martha were aware of the great miracles that Jesus was able to perform.
1. When their brother, Lazarus, became critically ill, Jesus was the first one they thought to send for. **John 11:1-44**
 2. Their message reveals the very close relationship they had with Jesus when they said, *"Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."* **Vs. 3**
 3. When Jesus heard the message, He said to his disciples, *"This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."*
 - a. This event occurred probably within two weeks of the Passover. **Vs. 55**
 - b. Jesus knew that the end of His earthly ministry was very near.
 - c. What better way to emphasize one more time that He was the Son of God than to raise his friend from the dead.
 4. Verse 5 confirms that Jesus not only loved Lazarus, He also loved Mary and Martha.
 - a. Mary and Martha very likely expected Jesus to come to their aid immediately.
 - b. However, Jesus stayed two more days where He was before heading for Judea. **Vs. 6-7**
 - c. His disciples were very concerned for His safety because the Jews wanted to have Jesus stoned in the past and so going back now could be putting Jesus in real danger. **Vs. 8**
 - d. But Jesus knew that His destiny waited in Jerusalem, so He said to His disciples: *"Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up."* **Vs. 10**
 - e. Of course, the disciples were confused saying, *"Lord, if he sleeps he will get well."* They knew that sleep was needed for the healing process.
 - f. Then Jesus said to them plainly, so they would not be confused: *"Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless, let us go to him."*
 5. When Jesus arrived in Bethany, they learned that Lazarus had been in his tomb for four days.

- a. It was not a coincidence that Jesus tarried two full days before starting the trip to Bethany.
- b. Jesus didn't want to get there too soon, so there would be no confusion regarding the reality that Lazarus was truly dead.
 - 1) It was the custom during those days that the tomb of a loved one would be guarded for three full days.
 - 2) This was to make certain that there was no chance that he was in an unconscious state that appeared like death, but was not.
 - 3) No one had ever been revived from such unconsciousness after three full days, so then everyone was certain that the person was truly dead.
 - 4) Jesus arrived when Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days, which would eliminate any rumors that he was not really dead.
- c. Lazarus was well known, so many Jews in the area had gathered around Mary and Martha to comfort them in their loss. **Vs. 19**
 - 1) When Mary and Martha heard that Jesus was near, Martha went out to meet Him, but Mary stayed at home.
 - 2) Martha said to Jesus, *"Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."* **John 11:21-22**
 - 3) Jesus assured Martha that her brother would rise again.
 - 4) Then Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*
 - 5) Martha understood about the resurrection on the last day, but she had hoped that He would come to heal Lazarus, not that He would raise Lazarus from the dead.
 - 6) Martha answered the same question that Christians must answer still today. She replied: *"Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*
- d. Martha went back to the house to tell Mary that Jesus was calling for her.
 - 1) Mary went out to Jesus with a crowd of Jews following her because they thought she was going to go to the tomb to weep again.
 - 2) When she saw Jesus, Mary fell down at His feet saying the same thing Martha had said, *"Lord, if You had been here my brother would not have died."* **Vs. 32**
 - 3) When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews with her were weeping, He *"groaned in the spirit and was troubled."*
 - 4) We have seen many time where Jesus showed compassion on those who suffered from some physical malady. Now He felt compassion for the grief of these people He loved so much.

- e. Jesus asked where they had laid Lazarus and they took Jesus to the tomb.
 - 1) At that point, Jesus wept also. They all thought that it was because Jesus loved Lazarus so much and grieved at his death.
 - 2) It is more likely that it was because of His great compassion for the two sisters who were suffering the grief of losing their brother.
 - 3) Since Jesus told His disciples that Lazarus was "asleep", He obviously did not weep because Lazarus was dead, considering that He knew that Lazarus would be raised.
 - 4) Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb, which was a cave with a stone laying against the opening.
 - 5) Jesus said, *"Take the stone away."* **Vs. 39**
 - a) Martha was hesitant to have the stone removed and said, *"Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."*
 - b) But Jesus said, *"Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"*
 - c) Then they took away the stone from the tomb and Jesus prayed, *"Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."* **Vs. 41-42**
 - d) Then Jesus cried with a loud voice, *"Lazarus, come forth!"*
 - e) Immediately Lazarus came out of the tomb wrapped in the grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth.
 - f) Then Jesus ordered that the bindings be removed and Lazarus was free. **Vs. 44**
 - g) This fantastic miracle was witnessed by Mary, Martha and all of the Jews who were with her – as well as the disciples of Jesus.
 - 6) Some of the witnesses went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.
 - a) The chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and discussed what they should do, since they feared that everyone would believe in Jesus when they heard of this miracle.
 - b) From that day forward, they plotted to put Jesus to death and they commanded that anyone who knew where Jesus was should report it to them so they could arrest Him. **Vs. 56**

D. Who is the woman who anointed Jesus at Bethany before the Passover? Matt. 27:1-13; Mark 14:1-9; John 12:1-7

- a. Since there are several accounts of Jesus being attended by a woman who use expensive "fragrant oil" on Jesus, can we identify these women? Yes, we can.
- b. **Luke 7:36-50** – Early in the ministry of Jesus was invited to the home of one of a Pharisees named Simon.

- c. This account took place in Galilee, just after Jesus raised the son of a widow from the dead in the city of Nain.
 - 1) When they sat down to eat a sinful woman from the city brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil.
 - 2) She stood behind Jesus weeping and she began to wash His feet with her tears and wiped them dry with her hair.
 - 3) She also anointed his feet with the fragrant oil and kissed his feet.
 - 4) The Pharisee criticized Jesus saying *"If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."* **Vs. 39**
 - 5) Jesus then told Simon (the Pharisee) a parable about a creditor who had two debtors. One owed 500 denarii and the other owed 50 denarii.
 - a) When they had no way of repaying their debt, he forgave them both of all of their debt.
 - b) Then Jesus asked, *"Which one loved him more?"*
 - c) The Pharisee answered, *"I suppose the one whom he forgave more."* **Vs. 43**
 - d) Jesus said that he was correct. Then Jesus defended the woman saying:
 - i) When I entered your house, you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair – You did not offer me any of these courtesies.
 - ii) You did not anoint my head with oil but she has anointed My feet with fragrant oil, therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven because she loved much.
- d. **John 11:1-2** – In John's account of the sickness and death of Lazarus, he identifies his sisters as Mary and Martha (vs.1)
 - 1) In verse 2, John describes Mary as the one who *"anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair."*
 - 2) John must have been referring to the same account Luke reported in **Luke 7**.
 - a) Note the same phrase is used by Luke and John: "fragrant oil".
 - b) Note both also tied the event to "wiping His feet with her hair."
 - c) Luke did not identify the woman in His account, but John indicates that Mary, the sister of Lazarus, is the same woman Luke spoke of.
 - d) Identifying Mary as the "sinful woman" in **Luke 7** certainly gives us more insight into Mary's devotion to Jesus.
 - e) No wonder she chose sitting at His feet to listen to Him speak when He visited their home.

- f) She, who had been forgiven so much also loved Jesus so very much.
- g) Last week we discussed that some have suggested that the “sinful woman” Luke spoke of was Mary Magdalene, however, there is no scriptural nor historical evidence to support that idea.
- e. **John 12:1-9** – Here John gives some information that occurred during the last week in the life of Jesus.
 - 1) He attended a dinner, where Lazarus was present and Martha served the food.
 - 2) At this dinner Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. **Vs. 3**
 - 3) Judas Iscariot (Simon’s son) said, *“Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”*
 - 4) Judas didn’t really care about the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box and he used what was put in it.
 - 5) Jesus defended Mary again saying, *“Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.”* **Vs. 7-8**
 - 6) At this time the chief priests were not only plotting the death of Jesus, but they also wanted to kill Lazarus because many of the Jews believed in Jesus because he raised Lazarus from the dead. **Vs. 10**
- f. **Mark 14:3-9** – Mark also records the dinner at the home of Simon, the Leper (who had obviously been healed by Jesus or He would not have been permitted to participate in a social event.
 - 1) He also included the fact that a woman brought an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard and poured it on Jesus’ head.
 - 2) He did not name the woman.
 - 3) Obviously, it is the same account as John’s, even though Mark does not identify two of the main participants.
- g. **Matthew 26:6-14** – Matthew also tells the same story as Mark, without giving the name of the woman who brought the alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil.
 - 1) The facts are the same and the time frame is the same.
 - 2) Even without mentioning her name, Matthew records that Jesus said, *“...wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial.”* **Vs. 13**
 - 3) This event could hardly be forgotten since three of the four accounts of the gospel record the event.
 - 4) By harmonizing all of the accounts, we can know that it was definitely Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, who had to express her deep love for Jesus one last time before the crucifixion.

- 5) We can also trust that Mary was also the one who came to Jesus as a sinner and washed His feet with her tears and dried them with her hair in Luke 7.
- E. Mary and Martha each had an attitude that makes a great servant of the Lord.
1. Mary had a deep abiding faith in Jesus Christ and she never tired of listening to Him speak and learning everything He had to teach.
 2. While Martha also had faith in Jesus, she chose to serve Him by offering food and hospitality to Jesus and his disciples.
 3. One of the difficulties in living the Christian life is to achieve a balance of faith and works.
 - a. **Faith alone – James 2:19** – *"You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe – and tremble!"*
 - b. **Works alone – Romans 4:4** – *"Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt."*
 - c. **Balance – James 2:18** – *"Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."*
 4. Mary and Martha have taught us that balance is needed to successfully live the Christian life.
 - a. Blessed is the Christian woman who does not let spiritual growth suffer while she is involved in many good works that brings glory to God;
 - b. AND blessed is the Christian woman who knows that good works are the natural fruit of the deep faith she has in God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

II. Pontius Pilate's Wife

- A. Just a few hours after celebrating the Passover meal with His twelve special disciples, Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane
1. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead about two weeks before Passover and this event spurred the leaders of the Jews to want to kill Jesus.
 - a. **John 11:53** – *"Then, from that day on, they (the chief priests) plotted to put Him to death."*
 - b. **Matthew 26:3** – ¹³ *Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, ⁴ and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him. ⁵ But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."*
 - c. **John 11:57** – *"Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a command, that if anyone knew where He was, he should report it, that they might seize Him."*
 - d. The chief priests, the scribes and the Pharisees were not interested in justice.
 - e. They were very envious of Jesus because of the multitudes who believed His teaching and this jealousy led to their desire to have Him killed.

- f. The whole trial process was simply a "show" to convince the people that they were simply carrying out justice.
- g. The Jewish leaders had determined the verdict of His trial (death) before the trials were even begun.
2. When Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and offered to lead them to Jesus, they agreed to pay him thirty pieces of silver, and it presented the very opportunity they were seeking.
 - a. From that point, Judas looked for an opportunity when Jesus was Not surrounded by a great multitude. **John 22:6**
 - b. After the Passover meal, Judas went to the chief priests who gathered a multitude carrying swords and clubs and Judas took them to Gethsemane, where Jesus had been praying.
 - c. Judas made his betrayal of Jesus all the more cruel by going to Jesus and kissing his cheek (which was a common greeting among friends). **Luke 22:47**
 - d. If Judas thought he was fooling Jesus by this friendly gesture, he was sadly mistaken, since Jesus had already announced at the Passover meal that one of them would betray Him.
 - e. Jesus said to Judas, "*Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?*" How painful this must have been for Jesus.
- B. The accusers took Jesus to the high priest, who was assembled with the chief priests, the elders and the scribes (the Sanhedrin)
 1. Those escorting Jesus throughout the trials mocked Him and physically abused Him. **Luke 63-64**
 - a. They beat Him
 - b. They blindfolded Him and taunted Him by saying, "*Prophesy! Who is the one who struck You?*"
 - c. They struck Him in the face
 2. The Sanhedrin brought in false witnesses to testify against Jesus, but none could bring a charge worthy of death. **Matthew 26:59-60**
 3. Finally two false witnesses came forward and said, "*This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'*"
 - a. Jesus was referring to His own body as the "temple of God", and was confirming once again that He would be dead for three days and then rise again.
 - b. The members of the Sanhedrin did not understand this so the high priest asked Jesus if He was the Christ, the Son of God. **Vs. 62**
 - c. Jesus admitted this saying, "*It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.*"
 4. Finally, the high priest had found something with which he could charge Jesus; a charge which carried the death penalty.

- a. The high priest tore his clothes saying, *"He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses Look now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you think?"* **Vs. 65**
 - b. **Mark 14:64b** – "And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death." The verdict was unanimous.
- C. As soon as it was daylight they tied the hands of Jesus and took Him to Pontius Pilate.
1. If not for his role in the crucifixion of Jesus, Pontius Pilate would hardly be remembered at all, since there is very little written about him in history.
 - a. Pilate was a very political man, always concerned about Rome's opinion of him.
 - b. He was a cowardly politician who delivered the Son of God over to the rebellious Jews for crucifixion, knowing that the charges against Him were fabricated.
 - c. As the governor (or procurator) of Judea, Pilate represented the Roman Empire who ruled over most of the known world.
 - d. His job for the Roman government was the collection of taxes and commanding a large band of military who were also an imperial police force.
 - e. Pilate's primary to maintain peace and stability in the province he governed.
 - f. Commentators called him cruel and oppressive, but Jerusalem was a turbulent city, especially when the city was overflowing with Jews from every region who came to celebrate the various festivals the Jews observed.
 - g. In 1961, at Caesarea, an inscription was found. It said: "The Tiberieum (a temple dedicated to worship Tiberius Caesar) of the Caesareans Pontius Pilate Praefect of Judea has given." So, once again, archaeology confirms Bible facts.
 2. The only reason the Jews took Jesus to be tried by Pilate was because they wanted a scapegoat to blame so their evil motives would remain hidden.
 - a. Many think it was because they did not have the authority to carry out the death sentence, but that is not true.
 - b. The Jews had the authority to carry out the death penalty for religious offenses only, such as adultery and blasphemy.
 - c. Note that while the high priest passionately accused Jesus of blasphemy before the Sanhedrin, that was not the charge they gave to Pilate.
 - d. **Luke 23:1-2** – *"Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate. 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."*
 - 1) Perverting the nation – this was equal to sedition leading to a rebellion.

- 2) Tax evasion – not only accusing Jesus of refusing to pay taxes, they also insisted that He forbid His followers to pay taxes to Caesar.
- 3) Saying that He Himself is Christ, a King – accusing Jesus of inciting a rebellion in which He would take over Pilate's territory.
- e. Even after these accusations, Pontius Pilate could not judge Him guilty.

Luke 23:4

- 1) The Sanhedrin had collected a large crowd as they marched Jesus to Pilate's hall, and they all became more fierce.
- 2) They kept saying, *"He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place."* **Vs. 8**
 - a) When Pilate heard that Jesus was a Galilean, he jumped at the chance to get rid of this case altogether.
 - b) Pilate sent them to Herod, who was the ruler over Galilee and he was visiting Jerusalem at the time.
3. Herod was very happy to hear the case because he had heard of the miracles Jesus had done and he hoped to see one.
 - a. Herod asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus would not answer any of them. **Vs. 9**
 - b. The chief priests stood before Herod accusing Jesus passionately.
 - c. Then Herod, along with his soldiers, treated Jesus with contempt.
 - 1) They mocked Him by putting a "gorgeous robe" representing royalty since Jesus had declared Himself a king.
 - 2) Herod then sent Him back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate became friends with each other, when they were previously enemies. **Vs. 12**
4. Pilate was not pleased that Jesus was brought before him again.
 - a. He called the chief priests, the rulers and the people together **Luke 23:13-17** – ¹³*Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people,* ¹⁴*said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him;* ¹⁵*no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. ¹⁶I will therefore chastise Him and release Him"* ¹⁷*(for it was necessary for him to release one (prisoner) to them at the feast).*
 - b. Pilate thought he had found a way out of this disagreeable case by letting Jesus go, as it was the custom to release one prisoner to the people during Passover.
 - c. Pilate was desperate to find a peaceful solution because he couldn't afford to have a riot with Jerusalem so full of people for Passover.
 - d. Finally he offered to release either "Jesus, who is called Christ", or Barabbas, who was murder and one who stirred up rebellion.

- e. While Pilate waited for their decision, his wife sent a message to him saying, *"Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him."*
- 1) Dreams had long been a method that God used to communicate a message to certain people; usually Jews, but sometimes to Gentiles.
 - a) The Magi (Gentiles) who came following a star to find the birth of a King also received a message from God telling them not to go back to Herod with the location of the child. **Matthew 2:12**
 - b) Cornelius (Gentile) was a centurion who feared God, and he did many things trying to serve God.
 - i) However, all of his kind deeds, nor his prayers, nor his generous gifts to the poor had brought him the salvation he sought.
 - ii) **Acts 10:3-8** reveals that one day Cornelius received a vision of an angel of God telling him that God had noticed his effort to serve God; then tells him to send to Joppa for Peter who would tell him what he must do.
 - iii) The message Peter gave him resulted in baptism for Cornelius and his household.
 - c) Joseph (Jew) received a message from God in a dream telling him to take Mary and her child to Egypt to escape from Herod who was killing every male child born within the past two years. **Matthew 2:13**
 - 2) History tells us very little about Pilate's wife (whose name is never mentioned in scripture).
 - a) She was born to nobility in Rome.
 - b) She was well educated and wealthy
 - 3) Pilate obviously respected his wife very much.
 - a) Otherwise, why wouldn't God have sent the dream to Pilate?
 - b) Since Pilate had already stated clearly that he found Jesus guilty of nothing, perhaps God was providing Pilate one last opportunity to do the right thing.
 - c) Pilate's wife knew what great pressure Pilate was under from the Jews.
 - d) She also knew that his superiors in the Roman government would expect him to maintain peace and order in the territory he governed.
 - e) But most important, Pilate's wife knew that Jesus was innocent and she wanted to warn her husband not to give in to the strong pressure from the Jews.
 - f) Her dream was so disturbing that she feared that condemning this innocent man would end in disaster for her husband.

- 4) Of course, we know that Jesus was destined to die in this manner, but Pilate did not have to be the one who ordered it, then the Jews alone would have to accept the guilt of killing the Son of God.
- f. Pilate was so sure that they would choose to release Jesus, who had committed no crime, rather than the murderer and rioter, Barabbas.
 - 1) Pilate thought, *"Surely they wouldn't kill an innocent man out of jealousy!"*
 - 2) But by this time, the crowd had been pushed to a frenzy, long past using common sense or listening to facts.
 - 3) The Jews demanded that Pilate release Barabbas.
- g. Pilate couldn't believe his ears and said to the crowd, *"What then shall I do with Jesus who is Christ?"* **Matthew 27:22**
 - 1) The crowd cried out, *"Let Him be crucified!"*
 - 2) Pilate still couldn't believe they wanted to kill this innocent man, so he asked, *"Why? What evil has He done?"*
 - 3) The people shouted even louder saying, *"Let Him be crucified!"*
- h. At this point, Pilate gave up trying to reason with this violent mob.
 - 1) Pilate then took a pan of water and in front of the crowd he washed his hands saying, *"I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."*
 - 2) Perhaps this soothed Pilate's conscience by refusing to specifically convict Jesus of any crime and refusing to order Him to be crucified; however, he permitted the Jews to carry out the sentence, and he allowed his soldiers to assist them. **Vs. 27**
 - 3) Pilate was the highest ranking government official in all of Judea.
 - 4) He had the power of life and death when hearing criminal cases.
 - 5) He could have used that authority to free Jesus and then compel the crowd to leave Him alone or face criminal charges themselves.
 - 6) Pilate cared too much about his own reputation and was unwilling to make enemies of the Jews, so he just stood back and let it happen.
5. When the people saw that Pilate wanted nothing to do with crucifying Jesus, they agreed that His blood would be on them and their children.
 - a. Surely they didn't know what they were saying.
 - b. Jesus knew that this mob didn't know that they were killing the Son of God because He asked God to "forgive them for they know not what they do!" **Luke 23:34**
 - c. In **Acts 2:36** Peter accused the Jews of killing Jesus: *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*
 - 1) When the Jews heard that message on the Day of Pentecost, they were "cut to the heart".
 - 2) Learning the extent of their sin against God, broke their hearts.
 - 3) How could God ever forgive them for such a sin?

- 4) They asked Peter, "*What shall we do?*" (How can we get God's forgiveness?)
 - 5) It was almost too simple to be true: "*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;*"
 - 6) That simple solution still applies to the sins of mankind today.
 - 7) In fact, it is so simple, we have a hard time understanding why people fight against this teaching so vigorously.
6. Pilate's wife was the only one who was courageous enough to speak up for Jesus. It is regrettable that her husband was not as courageous as she was.