



### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION** (Page 1)

(Group leaders pick 4-5 questions to discuss as time permits)

Have you ever been a witness to an event or crime and had a different perspective about what occurred? What happened?

Of the people the gospels record being witnesses of Jesus' life, who's vantage point would be most interesting to you? Why?

As you read through the scriptures showing the narrative of Pilate and Jesus, what observations seem important to you? Why?

Do you see Pilate as cynical when it comes to matters of faith? Why? What forms does cynicism take today? In what ways do you think Christians are devout but are allowing cynicism to creep into faith?

Read Matt 27:24. In your opinion, why does Pilate wash his hands in front of the crowd?

Read 2 Cor 4:4. In what ways have you seen spiritual blindness exhibited? Do you think blindness is descriptive of Pilate's vantage point of Christ? Why?



### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION** (Page 2)

Which words best describe your perspective of Pilate: Despised or pitied? Horrified by or identified with?

Read Romans 7:15, 19, 21 & 23. What is the common theme in these verses? Do you think Pilate had the internal struggle Paul writes about?

Do you think someone like Pilate can ever be converted? What verses support your perspective? Have you ever known someone that you thought could never become a Christian who eventually did? What changed their minds?

Consider each point & verses found in the outline and ask the following questions of the group:

1. How are you encouraged by this?
  2. How does this challenge you personally?
  3. In what ways do you disagree?
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### **Guide – VANTAGE POINT 1: *Pilate***

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People can witness the same event and see it differently. A lot of factors can contribute to those differences: eyesight, hearing, personal bias, vantage point. Over the centuries, people have had different perspectives on the death and resurrection of Jesus. But, what about the differences of those that were there, the eye witnesses? *Vantage Point* looks at those different perspectives of Jesus and the Easter story through the lens of four different people: Pilate, a Thief, Jesus, and Thomas. In the series we'll pose the questions: What difference did their vantage point make in their perspective of the resurrection? And, how are their perspectives like ours?

#### **OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES**

##### **Pilate**

The following verses are a harmony of the gospel accounts of Pilate and his vantage point:

Matthew 27:1 Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. 2 They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

Luke 23:2 "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king."

Luke 23:3 So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.

Luke 23:44 Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."

John 18:30 "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

John 18:33 Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" 34 "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

John 18:35 "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?" 36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."



John 18:37 “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

John 18:38 “What is truth?” Pilate asked.

Matthew 27:19 While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.”

Luke 23:13 Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, 14 and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. 15 Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. 16 Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”

Matthew 27:15 Now it was the governor’s custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. 16 At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas.

Matthew 27:21 “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor. “Barabbas,” they answered. 22 “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify him!” 23 “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

Matt 27:18 For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

John 18:12 From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.” 13 When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha).

John 18:7 The Jews insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.” 8 When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, 9 and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. 10 “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”



Matthew 27:24 When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" 25 All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

Mark 15:15 Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Matthew 27:65 "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how."

### **PILATE:**

- 1. We despise him but we can also pity him.**  
2Cor 4:4; 1John 2:11; Ro 7:11; Gal 3:22
- 2. We are horrified by him but we can also identify with him.**  
Ro 7:15, 19, 21, 23; Matt 27:24
- 3. Pilate can't afford to believe.**  
Mark 8:36
- 4. We judge him, but is there hope for him?**  
Luke 23:34; Ro 10:9-10; 2Pet 3:9; Luke 1:37; John 1:12