

MAGNIFY

Pastor Toby Locke • Week 4 • 3/28/2021

Stuck in Neutral

Matthew 27:11-26

Introduction: It's clear there are some people who love Jesus and others who hate him. But what if you want to just stay neutral?

Tips from Pilate for those “Stuck” in Neutral

About Jesus:

- No matter how much _____ you collect, you'll still have to take a _____ of _____. (Mt. 27:11-14, 18-19)

- You cannot _____ about Jesus forever, even if you would like to. (Mt. 27:15-17, 20-23)

- You will be held _____ for your choice regardless of your _____. (Mt. 27:24-26)

Conclusion: The desire to stay neutral is understandable, but eventually you'll be forced to pick a side. Which will you choose?

Week 4 Plan to “Make It Stick”

Day One:

-Read Matthew 26:47-56. (Judas Betrays Jesus with a Kiss)

- ⇒ Why do you think Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss? How do you think Jesus felt as he did so?
- ⇒ Why does Jesus just surrender to the mob? Why NOT fight back?

Day Two:

-Read Matthew 26:57-68. (Jesus Stands Trial.)

- ⇒ Why do you think that Jesus refuses to speak in his own defense? Couldn't his testimony have swayed the Council?
- ⇒ Why do the normally reserved religious leaders become so violently unhinged around Jesus (see verse 67-68, especially)?

Day Three:

-Read Matthew 26:69-75. (Peter Denies Jesus.)

- ⇒ How is it possible that Peter has forgotten what Jesus said about denying him earlier that night? What's going on in Peter's head?
- ⇒ Is Peter's reaction to his failure strong enough?

Day Four:

-Read Matthew 27:3-10. (Judas Expresses Remorse.)

- ⇒ What seems to “change Judas's mind” about what he did?
- ⇒ Is Judas's reaction to his failure strong enough? How does it compare to Peter's?

Day Five:

-Read Matthew 27:16-17, 20-21, 26. (Barabbas Goes Free.)

- ⇒ Can you imagine how Barabbas must have felt to discover that he was unexpectedly to go free?
- ⇒ If you were a guilty criminal, and Jesus took your punishment for you, and you went free as a result, how might that change your life? What would you do differently?