

How To Choose The Wrong Savior

The Commander, the Crowd and the Con

Pilate:

- Knew the right **TITLE** and **TESTIMONY** of Jesus
- Feared the **CROWD** more than **CHRIST**
- Chose the **SAFE** way over the **RIGHT** way

The Crowd:

- Knew the right **TITLE** and **TESTIMONY** of Jesus
- Chose their **CULTURE** over **CHRIST**
- Chose what seemed **BEST FOR THEM**

Barabbas:

- Knew that he was **GUILTY**
- Had the **INNOCENT** take his **PUNISHMENT**
- Walked away **FREE**

Food for Thought for the week of December 8, 2019

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. In Chris' message this weekend, we read that Pilate knew Jesus was innocent but convicted Him and released Barabbas because he wanted to "satisfy the crowd" (Mark 15:15). Can you think of a time when you were influenced by a crowd of people to make a decision?

Read the following Proverbs and write down how they speak to people being influenced by others:
(NIV – New International Version)

Proverbs 12:26 - The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Proverbs 13:20 - Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 15:22 - Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 17:17 - A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Proverbs 18:24 - One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 22:24-25 - Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, ²⁵ or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared.

Proverb 27:6, 17 - ⁶ Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.
¹⁷ As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

How might God use wise people to help us make decisions?

2. Above we saw that Pilate was influenced by negative peer pressure, but we can also be influenced positively by peer pressure. God wants us to remain in community to have friends in our lives that help us along the way. Write down how you see this truth revealed in Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

(NIV – New International Version)

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: ¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. ¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹² Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Can you think of a time when you have influenced someone else (positive or negative)? Is there anything you can learn from that experience?

Take a moment to pray and ask God to show you how He can use you to influence others.