

The dream

Matthew 27



When Jesus stood in front of Pilate, the 'stuck-up' Roman Governor of the Outback's of the great Empire, Pilate found himself in a great dilemma.

He wanted to have nothing to do with Jesus.

He did not want to pass judgment on the 'King of the Jews'.

Harrods dilemma was based on the fact that the night before this trial his wife had a dream which had a great impact on her (and most likely would have left her sleepless for the rest of the night). We don't know exactly what the content of this dream was but it made

such an impact on Pilates wife that she did not want her husband to get involved in this trial. She did not want Pilate to condemn Jesus to death.

Why would the first lady of Jerusalem have cared about a Jew whom she did not even know? She was used to a life of glamor and glory and people in her rank did not mix with inferior Jews. Normally she would have simply laughed off the trial of a Jew who was condemned to death. But this dream troubled her so greatly that she tried to prevent Jesus being condemned by her husband Pilate.

No Roman Governor would have cared much about the outcome of a trial which passed on an inferior subject in the back corners of the great Roman empire.

A governor usually had far more important things on his mind.

He was there to exercise the sovereign rule of Rome and not to consider the life's of individual people.

But this trial was different. Even Pilate knew that. Even he felt uncomfortable standing before Jesus, knowing that he was condemning an innocent man.

His final verdict was that: "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children." And so it was for the last 2000 years.

History is simply a proof of that statement.

As Pilate was getting a glimpse of the deep hate that so many religious Jews had for Jesus he placed the verdict, the final outcome of this trial back in their hands. The choice was theirs. It was either Jesus or Barabbas (a killer). And the whole world has known ever since which choice they had made.

Pilate's ultimate concern was political stability. Knowing about all the troubles that Rome had faced in this tiny part of the empire with all those rebellious people in the past, Pilate gave in and capitulated despite his wife's dream.

He was the classic image of a modern politician. He was a man who was prepared to act against his own personal conscience providing that he could see a political benefit from the outcome of his decision.

Peace and stability was more important to him then the life of an innocent man.

He had no idea that one day he would have to stand in front of Jesus again, but that on that day the future the roles will be reversed.

Little did he know that he not only stood in front of the king of the Jews (a people he would have deeply despised) but that he stood in front of the king of the universe!

One day when he will stand before him again all his shame and his guilt will be full exposed! Anyone who has read the Bible has read about Pilate. One day everyone will see justice done and witness how Pilate will be put to great shame and the face greatest of all humiliations to come.

One day he will stand naked and completely exposed in front of the King of Kings!
And Pilate will recognize that face which was condemned to a cruel death on the cross!

But Pilate continued to do what any cowardly politician would do. He washed his hands and said that "it's not my fault"(not in those words). Even thou he allowed the trial to proceed he claimed that he had nothing to do with the outcome of it at all!

What a coward he was. He had every power to stop and to cancel this trial but instead he gave in to the demands of the people who shouted at him and he concluded that: "it's your king, you do as you please" (not in those exact words) He knew that the verdict was a foregone conclusion.

Jesus knew that as well long before Pilate knew it, he knew it the night before when he sat in the garden.

So why the dream and who was behind it?

Did Satan whisper this dream into Pilate's wife's ear as she was sleeping or was it somebody else?

It could not have been Satan for the simple reason that it was Satan himself who was behind all the troubles. He had stirred up the crowds to reject their Messiah.

Seeing Jesus crucified was the devils finest hours!

There has never been an hour like this for him since!

He and all his evil angels were having the greatest party ever as they witnessed how Jesus was suffering on the cross!

This was Satan's ultimate pleasure to see Jesus humiliated in front of weak and of 'guilty' men, to see how he, the Messiah was spat at, was tortured by human hands and was eventually nailed to a tree.

To see Jesus hanging on the cross was Satan's ultimate victory.

He must have been overcome with such excitement and joy believing that he has finally succeeded in defeating the son of God for all times to come. Surely Jesus would never be able to recover from this!

But little did he know that the cross would turn out to be his greatest defeat!

Little did Satan understand that the cross would rob him of his greatest power and bring about his final destruction.

Why are there only glimpses of the Messiah's death and of his rejection in the Old Testament?

God's wonderful message of salvation was hidden from Satan for thousands of years!

It was hidden until it would unfold in its full glory.

When Jesus rose from the dead it was time for Satan to sober up from the great party he had with all his evil demons and his fallen angels. He would have suddenly realized that the cross had spelled his greatest defeat. Once Jesus took many of the departed souls with him into paradise Satan would have known in an instant that his power was broken for good. Satan could not have been behind this dream. If he could have given Pilate's wife a dream that night it would have been the exact opposite. It would have been a dream with a message like this: "Make sure that this Jew will get nailed to a cross!"

Obviously this dream came either from the Lord or it was conveyed to Pilate's wife through an angel.

Whoever was behind it, it had its desired effect.

Why was it so important that Pilate did not condemn Jesus to death?

While the Romans carried out the act of crucifixion (and ironically the Jews have been accused of it for the last 2000 years) it was the Jews who demanded his death.

The demand for the death sentence which was passed on Jesus came from the voices of Jews and not from the authorities of Rome.

To fully understand the significance of this rejection we have to understand what happens when Jesus returns.

The Bible tells us that Jesus will not return until the Jews will cry out for him again.

But this time it will not be a cry of rejection. This time it will be a very different cry which will come from the heart.

It will not be the same cry of rejection which had once filled the Courtroom in Jerusalem some 2000 years ago, this time it will be the cry of acceptance!

Jesus made it very clear to his people when he told them that:

"For I tell you that you will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'" (Matthew 23:39)

When Jesus returns a whole nation will have been prepared for his arrival and will be ready to accept back but this time with wide open arms.

Jesus initial rejection was a prerequisite for his final return.

It was the very people which God Himself had once chosen, which He had personally delivered out of slavery, which He had kept apart from the rest of the world for thousands of years, a people who had experienced both His love and His guidance as well as His discipline and His anger at times, a people which had rejected His ultimate blessing, His only son, it is those same people which will one day do the greatest 'turn-around' in any nation on earth in the entire history of mankind and welcome back whom they had rejected.

It will be the only nation on earth that will experience a true national conversion.

And everyone along the way who had opposed God's plan in the past, puppets like Herod and others were nothing but willing tools of Satan who will all have to stand before him one day, who will all have to face the 'King of the Jews'.

What will they say then when they stand before the only true King whom they had rejected?