

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:1-17 & John 18:28 – 19:16

SINGING: 309:1-4 – 123:1, 3 – 2:1-5 – 84:1-2 – 98:1-4

The Danger of Moral Compromise

- I. Begins with ignoring what you know is right
- II. Brings you instantly on a slippery slope
- III. Mostly ends with permanent loss

I. MORAL COMPROMISE BEGINS WHAT YOU KNOW IS WRONG

- A. Pilate was conscious of doing wrong in his dealings with Jesus
 - 1. He was convinced of Jesus' innocence (John 18:29-31; 39-40; 19:20)
 - 2. He acted against clear warning of his wife (Matt. 27:19)
 - 3. He was warned directly by Jesus (John 19:11)
- B. How easy it is to act like Pilate: *make moral compromises!*
- C. Are there scenes of compromise flashing in our conscience?
 - 1. Face your own sin before they will face you in the judgment day

II. Moral compromise brings you instantly on a slippery slope

- A. Pilate began to compromise *justice* from moment he faced Jesus in court
- B. Pilate's initial moral compromise set him to more and more sins
 - 1. He makes duo between Jesus and Barabbas (17:38-39)
 - 2. He orders an *innocent man* to be scourged & abused (19:1-6)
 - 3. He used Jesus as pawn in his own game to survive (19:4-5)
 - 4. He ignores his uneasy and fearful heart (19:8, 12)
- C. Pilate pictures the journey of moral compromise: Ps. 36:1-4
 - 1. Knowing he compromised, he flattered & reasoned truth into silence!
 - 2. Examine your thoughts and actions: Are you compromising truth?
- D. What a fearful thing to *have to face the truth of Jesus Whom you rejected while you embraced the lie of Barabbas!*

III. Moral compromise mostly ends with permanent loss

A. Pilate long wiggled to resist to crucify Jesus Christ (vs. 12)

1. Yet finally he officially condemned Jesus to death while maintain to be blameless (Matt. 27:24)

2. He *never* intended to do this when his day started!

B. Moral compromise is spiritual suicidal

1. In moral compromise we drown ourselves (1 Tim. 6:9)

2. Consider Judas Iscariot & David vs Joseph & Daniel and his friends

CLOSING APPLICATIONS ...

A. Pilate's rejection of Jesus is evil: *what is our rejection of Him?*

B. Pilate didn't just burn his 'bosom or feet' (Prov. 6:27-28)

C. Stop hiding – excusing – soothing yourself with false reasoning!

1. There is no shred of innocence in us

2. There is an amazing willingness and ability in God to forgive

3. But there is no forgiveness without repentance

a. What is *true repentance*?

- *naming and shaming* your sin
- *accepting full responsibility of your wrong*
- *have a true sense of pain you caused in others*
- *acknowledgement of the loss of every right*

Many people who appear to repent are like sailors who throw their goods overboard in a storm only to wish for them again in a calm.

He who beats his heart, but does not mend his ways,
does not remove his sins but hardens them. (Augustine)

Don't mistake disgust for your own faults with repentance.

For sin may be the occasion of great sorrow
when there is not sorrow for sin. (Owen)