

The Two Bowls

Matthew 27:22-26 & John 13:1-5; 12-17 NIV

Matthew 27:22-26 NIV

²² *“What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify him!”*

²³ *“Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”*

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, “His blood is on us and on our children!”*

²⁶ *Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.*

John 13:1-5

13 *It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*

² *The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

John 13:12-17

¹² *When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³ “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.*



Rom 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

THE TWO BOWLS

"The Two Bowls" draws a parallel between two pivotal events in the Bible: Pontius Pilate's decision to crucify Jesus and Jesus' act of washing His disciples' feet. These events exemplify contrasting attitudes towards responsibility and service.

Occurring within twenty-four hours of each other, these stories, juxtapose two individuals, two lifestyles, two attitudes, and two perspectives.

The common element in both narratives is the presence of a bowl of water.

Pilate's Bowl of Water represents the abandonment of responsibility.

Pilate, the Roman Governor of Judea, faced pressure from religious leaders to crucify Jesus. Despite recognizing Jesus' innocence, Pilate succumbed to political expediency and washed his hands of responsibility, ultimately authorizing Jesus' execution & condemning Jesus to death. This symbolizes the temptation to prioritize personal convenience and power over ethical principles and accountability.

Conversely, Jesus' Bowl of Water symbolizes the embrace of responsibility through humble service. During the Last Supper, Jesus, fully aware of His divine authority, stooped to wash His disciples' feet, demonstrating servant leadership.

Despite His power, Jesus willingly embraced the responsibility of service, leaving a profound example for His followers.

His actions challenged conventional power dynamics, emphasizing the importance of selfless service and humility.

The analogy extends beyond these specific biblical events to encompass broader life choices. Just as Pilate and Jesus faced decisions with far-reaching consequences, individuals encounter similar choices daily.

The message emphasizes the importance of embracing responsibility and serving others, rather than evading accountability or seeking power for its own sake.

Ultimately, the narrative of "The Two Bowls" underscores the fundamental choice between self-serving actions and selfless service, highlighting the transformative power of embracing responsibility in shaping one's life and impacting others, echoing Jesus' teaching that true greatness lies in serving others.

Ultimately, "The Two Bowls" serves as a timeless reminder of the profound impact our choices have on our lives and the lives of others, urging individuals to embrace responsibility and prioritize service over self-interest.