**CONFRONTING COMMON EXCUSES**

**LESSON 15 – December 7, 2025**

“I’ve Done Everything I Can.”

**Key Verse(s):** Luke 18:18 “And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 19 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God. 20 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother. 21 And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.”

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**Summary of the Biblical Event**

In the closing hours before the crucifixion, Pilate found himself standing face-to-face with the Lord Jesus Christ. The Jewish leaders had delivered Jesus to him out of envy, and the governor quickly recognized that the accusations against Him were hollow. Pilate questioned Jesus, examined Him carefully, and repeatedly declared that he could find no fault in Him at all. Even his wife warned him through a troubled dream to have nothing to do with condemning this righteous Man. Yet as the crowd surged with anger and the pressure mounted around him, Pilate began to waver. Fearing the political fallout, the noise of the multitude, and the threat of being reported to Caesar, he tried to distance himself from the decision. Calling for water, Pilate washed his hands before the people and claimed innocence, insisting that he was not responsible for what happened next. Though he possessed full authority to release Jesus, Pilate pretended the choice was not his and surrendered to the demands of the crowd. Many believers excuse disobedience the same way, convincing themselves that they had no part in a decision when, in truth, they did.

 **Examining the Motives Exposing the Flaws**

* He needed a way to remove himself from a wrong decision.
* He saw his efforts as sufficient in justifying his neutrality.
* He convinced himself that his authority had been removed.
* He tried to persuade others to make the right decision.
* He was afraid that he could lose his position.
* Washing his hands did not remove his own guilt.
* He spoke up, but he was not willing to stand against them.
* He gave up his authority to the mob of popular opinion.
* He wrongly expected them to do what he was afraid to do.
* He lost his position when he gave up his authority.

**1. It causes us to deflect personal accountability onto others around us.**

**Effects of the Excuse**

**Romans 14:12** – “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” **Galatians** **6:5** — “For every man shall bear his own burden.”

**2. It opens the door to increased peer pressure on our future decision making.**

**Exodus 23:2** — “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment.”

**3. It greatly weakens our standing in positions of leadership. (indecisive)**

**James 1:8** “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” **Proverbs 25:26** “A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.”

**4. It hampers our ability to learn from our previous decisions.**

**Proverbs 24:32** —“Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.” **Prov. 26:11** — “As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.”



PERSONAL APPLICATION

**Memory Verse:** James 4:17 - “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”

**Reflective Questions:**

* What choices have I attributed to others, even though I had authority over them?
* Do I manipulate decisions to take as little personal accountability as possible?

**Commitment:**

* I will make clear decisions where I have the ability and the authority to do so.
* I will lead with Godly decisiveness.

Why did Pilate feel the need to actually wash his hands during the trial?

Do you think Pilate fully convinced himself that the decision wasn’t his?

Did Pilate’s direct conversations with the Lord affect his motive?

This excuse shows weakness in our leadership. Why do we still use it?

Why was the offering of Barabbas only an illusion of choice created by Pilate?