

A close-up photograph of a hand being washed under a faucet. The hand is cupped, and the palm is covered in thick, white soap suds. The faucet is visible in the upper left corner, and the background is a plain, light-colored sink. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, black, cursive font.

*The Case of
the Unwashed
Hands*

Sound Character...

- Begins in the home; continues through life
 - **Proverbs 1:7-9**, “The fear of the LORD *is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.”*
 - **2nd Timothy 1:5**, “I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”
- Influenced by nation’s moral condition
 - **Romans 1: 28-31**, Picture of Roman society

Sound Character Not Built On Shifting Sand

- Jesus described two types of people
 - **Matthew 7:24-27**, *“whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man..., every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man...”*
- Paul described our need for inner strength
 - **Ephesians 4:14-15**, *“be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ...”*

Trials Reveal Character

- Man's character revealed through difficulties
 - **Genesis 22:1**, *“God did tempt Abraham...”*
 - (tested, proved, tried) (Ex. Praying for patience)
 - **Job 23:10-11**, *“he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined.”*
 - **James 1:13-14**, *“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.”*

Snapshot of Pilate

- Servant of a corrupt government
- “Procurator”, personal servant of the emperor
- Directly responsible for regional finances
- Had to please all men, especially Tiberius
- Ruled W/O moral authority (right or wrong)
- No fear of God & no personal principles
- Military man respecting only rank & authority
- Wrath against anyone upsetting his domain

*Pilate's Character:
Shifting Sand*

Pilate, On Trial Before God

- He saw the hypocrisy of Jewish leaders
 - **Mark 14:61-63**, High priest asked, *“Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we further witnesses?”*
- Pilate knew the right thing to do
 - He knew Jesus did not deserve to die
 - Yet, lacked character to do the **“RIGHT THING”**

Pilate, On Trial Before God

- **Pilate: A rubber stamp; A shifting sand**
 - **John 18:28-31**, *“...they lead Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover. Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, (evil-doer) we would not have delivered him up unto thee. Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death...”*

Pilate, On Trial Before God

- He accepted False accusations against Jesus
 - **Luke 23:1-2**, *“And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.”*
- He saw the intense pressure upon Jesus
 - **Mark 15:2-5**, *“Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest it. And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing. And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee. But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled.”*

Pilate, On Trial Before God

- He saw the composure of Jesus
 - **1 Peter 2:21-23**, *“Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously”*
- Jesus was composed even after scourging
 - **John 19:1-2**, The scourging
 - **John 19:7-12**, The dilemma
 - Pilate shifted like sands blown of a beach

Pilate's Shifting Sand

1. Sends Jesus to Herod

- **Luke 23:7, 11** *“as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod... Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.”*

2. Offer’s the people a choice

- **John 18:38-40**, *“I find in him no fault at all. But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?”*

Pilate's Shifting Sand

3. Decides to arouse sympathy in the people

– **John 19:1-5**, “Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged *him*. *And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands. Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him. Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!”*

Pilate's Shifting Sand

4. Decides it is not his decision

– Pilate had conflicting goals

- Release Jesus or satisfy the Jews

– **Matthew 27:24-26**, *“When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children. Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified”*

God's Verdict of Pilate

- Did Pilate have clean hands?

- God's verdict?

GUILTY

– **Acts 4:27**, *“Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel”*

ALL GUILTY

- Pilate was guilty like the Pharisees

– **Matthew 23:23-24**, *“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.”*

A close-up photograph of a hand being washed under a faucet. The hand is held palm-up, and a stream of water is pouring over it, creating a thick layer of white soap suds. The background is a blurred white sink and faucet.

Conclusion of The Matter

Are your hands clean?

*What will be Gods
verdict for you?*

The Application

- **Matthew 7:21-23**, *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”*

The Final Judgment

- **Matthew 7:24-25**, “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.”
- **Matthew 7:26-27**, “And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”

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