

Matthew 27:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

Analysis

Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him (μηδὲν σοὶ καὶ τῷ δικαίῳ ἐκείνῳ)—Pilate's wife (traditionally named Claudia Procula) called Jesus dikaios (righteous, just), the same term used of Joseph (Matthew 1:19) and Jesus Himself (1 John 2:1). God sent warning through an unlikely source—a pagan woman's dream.

Matthew alone records this supernatural intervention. God gave Pilate every opportunity to choose rightly: his wife's warning, his own recognition of innocence (v. 18), the absence of evidence. Yet political expediency triumphed over conscience—a chilling warning about compromising known truth.

Historical Context

Romans took dreams seriously as potential divine communication. Pilate's wife sending a message during trial proceedings was highly irregular, showing her urgency. Her warning joined other Gentile testimonies in Matthew: the magi (2:1), the centurion (8:10), another centurion at the cross (27:54).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God sometimes use unlikely sources to warn us away from sin, and do we listen?
2. What does Pilate's rejection of multiple warnings teach about the danger of political expediency over moral conviction?

Interlinear Text

Καθημένου δὲ αὐτόν ἐπὶ τοῦ βήματος ἀπέστειλεν
was set down When he on the judgment seat sent
G2521 G1161 G846 G1909 G3588 G968 G649

πρὸς αὐτόν ἡ γυνὴ αὐτόν λέγουσα Μηδὲν σοὶ
unto he G3588 wife he saying nothing Have thou
G4314 G846 G1135 G846 G3004 G3367 G4671

καὶ τῷ δικαίῳ ἐκείνῳ πολλὰ γὰρ ἔπαθον
G2532 G3588 just man to do with that many things for I have suffered
G1342 G1565 G4183 G1063 G3958

σήμερον κατ' ὅναρ δι' αὐτόν
this day in a dream because he
G4594 G2596 G3677 G1223 G846

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 27:24 (Righteousness): 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.

Proverbs 29:1 (Parallel theme): He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

John 19:13 (Judgment): When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.

Luke 23:47 (Righteousness): Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.

1 Peter 2:22 (Parallel theme): Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

Isaiah 53:11 (Righteousness): He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Zechariah 9:9 (Righteousness): Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Matthew 2:22 (Parallel theme): But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:

Matthew 27:4 (Parallel theme): Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

Matthew 1:20 (Parallel theme): But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

