

April 9, 2017  
Series: Thrones  
Part 11: Leading with a Clear Conscience  
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1. In Adam's introduction and welcome he mentioned someone asking what he does for fun in Branson. What do you do for fun in Branson?

2. Some churches participate in Lent, a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. It often includes self-examination that leads to repentance, fasting, and preparation for Easter. Christians often give us something during Lent.

\*Have you ever participated in Lent?

\*If you have or if you choose to at some point, what have you or what would you give up for these important days?

3. Do you feel like you have an active conscience? Do you think it is different than the urgings and convicting of the Holy Spirit? Have you ever violated your conscience or sloughed off the Holy Spirit in a way you'd be willing to share? What were the consequences?

4. When has your conscience led you to a right action?

5. A French Proverb says "There is no pillow so soft as a clear conscience." A mother in our church told her children when she tucked them in each night, "Live each day so that you can sleep in peace." Is this something you're teaching your children? What lessons do you habitually teach your children?

6. "When he (Jesus) was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor" (Matthew 27: 12-14).

\*Why do you think Jesus made no reply?"

\*How do you respond when someone rebukes you, whether justified or not?

\*For further study: In John's account, Jesus does say a few things to Pilate, though they are not a response to the charges against him. Do you think this exchange is part of the reason Pilate wanted to release him (John 18: 28-40).

7. James 4:17 says, "So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin." What right thing do you need to do this week?

8. Scripture says Pilate knew the Jewish leaders handed Jesus over to him "out of envy," which is a component of self-interest.

\*How was it in their self-interest? What did they envy?

\*What questionable things do Christians sometimes do out of self-interest?

9. Some of the crowd that laid palm branches before Jesus as he entered Jerusalem and shouted praises were likely among those who later shouted, “Crucify him!”

In what ways do Christians sometimes both praise him and then turn our backs on him?

10. Pilate seemed incredulous when the crowd, persuaded by the chief priest and elders, asked for the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus. Barabbas was a notorious prisoner who was among the rebels who had committed murder in an insurrection. “Why,” Pilate asked, “what crime has he committed?” But they answered all the louder, “Crucify him!” (Matthew 27: 20-23; Mark 15:7)

\*How do you account for the crowd’s answer when Pilate asked what crime Jesus committed?

\*Adam had a video played at the end of the service about Barabbas. How are we like Barabbas? How does that add to the salvation story?