

Imperfect #9  
**Digging Yourself a Deeper Hole**

*Word*

**Scripture Reference**

Luke 22:66–23:25

**Discussion Questions**

1. When Christians compromise their stand one time, it becomes easier to make compromises whenever their faith in Christ get tested. Unbelievers see it and may wonder why we don't hold to our convictions, instead getting manipulated and pressured to do things we are not supposed to do. We dig ourselves a hole when we compromise the first time, and dig ourselves a deeper hole by compromising again and again and not standing on our convictions. What holes of compromises do Christians usually fall into? Why would a lot of Christians rather stay in or even dig themselves deeper hole instead of getting out?
2. Luke 22:66-23:25 gives us a clear picture of how we get ourselves into more serious trouble by compromising our faith instead of standing up for our convictions based on the Word of God. Discuss how a false charge was given against Jesus (v. 66-71). How did Jesus reply to the interrogation about His identity? What did the Jewish council condemn Jesus of claiming? Would that be a sufficient reason for Jesus to be put to death? How do you respond when someone puts your Christianity into a bad light? Do you feel intimidated? Share and discuss how you have stood your ground as a Christian despite intimidation from others.
3. When Jesus was taken to Pilate, what other accusations did the crowd charge Jesus of doing (v. 23:1-4)? What verdict did Pilate give? Pilate had the authority in the land of Palestine to free Jesus despite the Jewish leaders' accusations, but why did Pilate not do so?
4. How did Pilate, finding nothing wrong with Jesus, dig himself a deeper hole where he could not get out. As Christians, we are guilty of digging ourselves into a deeper hole, and the Scriptures describes it in this progression:
  - a. First, it happens when we have no convictions (v. 5-7). Why did Pilate send Jesus to Herod? How do you as a believer act like Herod when you know the right thing to do, but instead of standing your ground for what you believe you should do, you pass on the responsibility to someone else? What's the

danger of asking the question "What would I do?" instead of "What should I do in light of what the Bible says?" when it comes to spiritual matters?

- b. Secondly, we dig ourselves into a deeper hole when we associate with people who also don't have convictions (v. 8-12). Why was Herod delighted to see Jesus (v. 8-9)? When he didn't get what he wanted from Jesus, what did Herod do (v. 11)? Why did Pilate and Herod become friends despite hating each other before (v. 12)? Discuss what happens when we try to rationalize our wrong behavior by pointing to others who may be doing the same thing. Are you afraid to make a stand because you don't want to be the "bad guy?" If someone (especially a fellow believer) makes a stand for something that is good and right, do you back that person up or do you just keep quiet? Discuss how you can discern if a person has conviction. How can you surround yourself with people like them?
- c. Thirdly, we dig ourselves into a deeper hole when we make decisions not based on convictions (v. 13-25). Pilate who didn't find Jesus guilty of any wrongdoing wanted to release him three times. What kept Pilate from doing it (v. 23)? How did Pilate dig himself an even deeper hole? What decision did he make when he didn't stand on his own convictions (v. 24-25)? Do the voice of the majority sway you even if you know that what they want is wrong? How do you react when majority in the group decide to do something that is obviously wrong?

*Walk*

Many of us Christians find it hard to live in this world surrounded by imperfect people. We are in a deep hole, one which we dig even deeper for ourselves when we have no convictions, when we surround ourselves with people who don't have biblical beliefs or principles, and when we make decisions that are not based on convictions. Think about what is the main purpose of the Scripture in your life. Do you think the Word of God was given to make you feel better? Stop and assess your life if you are living out Biblical convictions. If you have made compromises on your faith in Jesus Christ, how do you plan to change that?

*Worship & Prayer*

*Father, Your Word is the lamp unto my feet and the light unto my path. You have been faithful in clearly letting me know what choices I need to make in my life. You have been faithful in providing strength and protection in the midst of opposition. You are faithful in giving me the courage of conviction to stand against sin. Through the risen Savior Jesus Christ you have assured victory over sin, yet I continue to compromise my faith left and right, in the process besmirching Your name when You deserve nothing but praise and honor. Forgive me, Father. I ask for wisdom, strength, resolve, and courage to stand firm in my faith, in Christ's name. Amen.*