

" I AM INNOCENT OF THIS MAN'S BLOOD. IT IS YOUR AFFAIR." (Moffatt) Matt. 27:24

### I. The Tendency To Shift Responsibility.

- a. Four times in the trial of Jesus He was "handed over" to someone else on the plea that he was their affair.
  - (1) The high priest handed Him to Pilate.
  - (2) Pilate to Herod.
  - (3) Herod back to Pilate.
  - (4) Pilate to the soldiers to be crucified.
- b. Twice the words "your affair" are used.
  - (1) By the high priest and elders to Judas when he brought back the thirty pieces of silver.
  - (2) By Pilate in this passage.
- c. Jesus was a heavy responsibility on their hands. They were willing to get rid of Him anyway they could.

### II. Jesus Cannot Be Side-Stepped.

- a. Everytime the statement was made, it is "your affair" in reference, it was false way to try to side-step Jesus.
- b. Jesus was the high priest's affair. He was Herod's affair. He was Pilate's affair. He is your affair.
- c. Jesus on anyone's hands is an affair upon which he must make a decision. These men preferred escape the responsibility for so terrifying a thing as a decision. Instead they tried like struggling cowards to find an alibi.

### III. Two Who Did Not Make Christ Their Affair.

- a. Pilate could look after the routine of his office, but tried to shift responsibility and side-step when a real problem which could not be avoided came up. The high priest was willing to perform the ritualistic affairs of his religious office, but he was a coward when it came to coming forward and deciding in favor a moral responsibility. Herod was ready to look after the affairs of state and government, but he proved to be a renegade in moral matters.
- b. How different it might have been if someone had been heroic enough to break through that vicious circle and said this is my affair.
- c. You have the opportunity to make Christ your affair. What a difference it makes in life, in death, in eternity.