



# HIGHLANDS

THE DELICATE DANCE

From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, "If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar." When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus.

JOHN 19:12-16

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JOHN 19:12-16

He came to that which was his own,  
but his own did not receive him.

JOHN 1:11

If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

JOHN 15:18-19

**Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.**

**MATTHEW 10:38-39**

## STRONG CONVICTIONS

### **Kingship (John 18:36-38)**

Jesus confidently proclaimed a spiritual kingdom of truth and righteousness, emphasizing a higher purpose beyond worldly power. The Jewish people are portrayed as rejecting their heritage and God's kingship in favor of Caesar. Pilate, recognizing this, mocks them (19:14-15).

### **False Accusations (John 18:23; 19:10)**

Jesus maintained unwavering innocence, responded with truth and silence, showcasing a commitment to righteousness despite facing unjust charges.

### **Submission to Higher Authority (John 19:11-12)**

Jesus acknowledged Pilate's authority was derived from above, illustrating the conviction that submitting to the divine will was necessary even in the face of adversity (John 19:11).

## SOFT HEART

### **Submissive Prayer (John 18:1)**

In the Last Supper and in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus's prayer reflects a softened and submissive heart, yielding to the Father's will. While his convictions stand unshaken in fulfilling God's plan of salvation.

### **Discerning Responses (John 18:22-23)**

Despite facing injustice, Jesus responds with wisdom, showcasing a softened and sensitive heart to the real issue.

### **Consideration of Others (John 19:26-27)**

While bearing the weight of humanity's sins, Jesus shows concern for his mother, revealing a heart that remains tender and caring.

But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1 PETER 2:20-25

Remaining convictionally strong but dispositionally soft and sensitive is the delicate dance every believer faces.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking

**JAMES 1:2-4**