

#### 4. Pilate avoids the issue, letting Jesus die

The Jews wanted Jesus to die, but Pilate knew he was innocent. 'When Pilate saw that...an uproar was starting, he took the water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" Then he handed him over to be crucified.' Matthew 27:24,26

***We all want to avoid conflict, and we sometimes allow innocent people to suffer because of it. When Pilate washed his hands, it was symbolic of the fact that he was avoiding the issue; when we wash our hands let it be a sign of repentance – that we are sorry for all those times when we did nothing...and others suffered because of it. Wash your hands now.***

*'Your hands are full of blood; wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow'. (Isaiah1:15-17)*

