

# *A Moment about What to Give Up for Lent*

Moment Ministries February 13, 2020 Art Morgan and Paul Pritchard Colleagues and Collaborators

## **PILATE, ST JOHN AND PAUL**

We're going to a concert Sunday afternoon...

A great choir and orchestra...  
and Paul Prichard with a solo or two.

St. John's Passion this time...

frankly I'm not passionate about passions...  
nor do I like the New Testament Passion of Jesus.

Paul has the Pilate role...

he won't probably wash Pilate's hands...  
the Gospel of John doesn't seem to go along with Matthew.

Long story short...or not so long...

I read this particular story from John as Gospel fiction...  
a story to carry the author's and friend's point.

The point I get has to do with...

First of all...who John thinks Jesus really was...a much-repeated theme...  
Second...who to blame for killing Jesus?

Here's where Pilate appears to orchestrate a memorable answer...

a trial story...a somewhat familiar plot these days...  
not about innocence or guilt but about who holds the power.

This story has more importance in history than Christians might wish...

like... who made Jesus die?

John has implanted his idea in John 3:16...

*"...God gave his only begotten son..."*

A lot of people think this opinion from John at the end of the first century  
settles it. *"The Bible says so, doesn't it"*

The Pilate story moves into the blame game full speed.

Pilate answers to the Roman Emperor using Roman soldiers.  
And Jesus himself is blamed for blasphemy punishable by death.  
But wait! Also the High Priests and those angry Jews....

So anti-Semitism now has a place to hide itself...in the Passion story...

for over 2000 years... is still smoldering...bursting into crematoriums along the way  
I'd rather they would let Paul sing a song we sometimes sang at Moment...

*"God don't hate the Muslims, God don't hate the Jews,  
God don't hate the Christians, but we all give God the blues.*

Lent is at hand...an invented tradition to lead us to the Passion Story.

What to give up for Lent?

How about giving up a terror-making literal belief in the Passion Story"

*For the Moment---Art Morgan, February 13, 2020*

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