

Simply One Page-A Bigger Miss

This piece was created from my own reflection and vision. I used ChatGPT as a tool to help shape the text from my original concepts and structure. The final form is the result of thoughtful revision, my own editorial hand fueled by my one page intent. Mike Haddorff, 2605

There's a moment between Jesus and Pilate that stopped me this week. I've read it many times, Pilate questioning, Jesus answering, the tension thick. But this time something sounded different. Jesus says, "The one who handed me over to you has the greater sin."

For most of my life, I heard that as a divine threat: "Pilate, you're in trouble... but the others, they're really in trouble."

This time, I didn't hear threat. I heard sorrow.

When I picture that scene now, I don't see Jesus escalating judgment. I see Him grieving. Pilate is missing the truth standing right in front of him, but the ones who handed Jesus over, the insiders, the ones with history, Scripture, tradition, and certainty on their side, they're missing even more.

It reminds me of the target. The word sin literally means "to miss the mark." The arrow still flies, but it lands off center. Some misses are wide. Some are just outside the bull's-eye. But they're all misses.

What Jesus sees that day isn't a scoreboard of guilt; it's a field of scattered arrows. And it breaks His heart. Because the people who were most confident they had the truth, the ones who were sure they were "in" are the ones whose arrows landed the farthest out. The biggest miss didn't come from those on the outside looking in. It came from those convinced they were already aligned with God.

That's sobering. And here's what moves me most: Jesus doesn't argue, shame, or correct. He simply stands there, truth embodied, compassion steady, love un-withdrawn. As if to say, "Even in your certainty, even in your blindness, even in your missing, I'm still here."

And maybe that's the invitation for me today: not just to admit I miss the mark, but to consider that my greatest misses may come precisely when I think I'm closest to the center. That's the bigger miss. And that is something worth sitting with.

Reflection Question

Where might I be most blind, not in my obvious weaknesses, but in the places where I'm most certain I'm right? How might humility and compassion open my eyes to the misses I can't yet see?