

Luke Twenty Three

Luke 23:1-7

Then the whole body of them arose and brought Him before Pilate. And they began to accuse Him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is Christ, a King.” And Pilate asked Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?” And He answered him and said, “It is as you say.” And Pilate said to the chief priests and the multitudes, “I find no guilt in this man.” But they kept on insisting, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching all over Judea, starting from Galilee, even as far as this place.” But when Pilate heard it, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that He belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who himself also was in Jerusalem at that time.

- The whole body of them—operated as 'one' in their betrayal (similar to tower of Babel)
- Pilate expresses intentions/desire but takes no action
- Pilate tries to dismiss charges
- To find that Jesus is Galilean—puts Him into Herod's jurisdiction
- Lukes gives the only account of the trial before Herod
- Jews had no power to carry out their own death sentences—had to be carried out under authority of Rome
- In Sanhedrin—charge against Jesus had been blasphemy—before Pilate: agitation of the people/riot, leading the people away from giving tribute to Caesar, assuming title of king
- Trials were carried out in province where crime was committed—or—to which the accused belonged

Luke 23:8-12

Now Herod was very glad when he saw Jesus; for he had wanted to see Him for a long time, because he had been hearing about Him and was hoping to see some sign performed by Him. And he questioned Him at some length; but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and the scribes were standing there, accusing Him vehemently. And Herod with his soldiers, after treating Him with contempt and mocking Him, dressed Him in a gorgeous robe and sent Him back to Pilate. Now Herod and Pilate became friends with one another that very day; for before they had been at enmity with each other.

- Herod had wanted to hunt for Jesus and kill Him—Luke 13:31
- Herod was glad for contact with Jesus—his servant, Chuza, was a follower of Jesus
- Herod was very familiar with ministry of John the Baptist
- Jesus disappoints Him—says nothing and does no miracles—He makes no threats—offers no resistance—Herod is the only person to whom Jesus said nothing at all
- When Jesus and Herod meet at last—the true Lord of the world and the political lord of the world
- When Jesus is sent back to Pilate—He tries three more times to convince crowd to release Jesus
- Mocking makes it plain that Herod had no interest in Jesus—did not take Him seriously

Luke 23:13-19

And Pilate summoned the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, “You brought this man to me as one who incites the people to rebellion, and behold, having examined Him before you, I have found no guilt in this man regarding the charges which you make against Him. “No, nor has Herod, for he sent Him back to us;

and behold, nothing deserving death has been done by Him. “I will therefore punish Him and release Him.” [Now he was obliged to release to them at the feast one prisoner.] But they cried out all together, saying, “Away with this man, and release for us Barabbas!” (He was one who had been thrown into prison for a certain insurrection made in the city, and for murder.)

- Pilate was aware of Jesus' innocence and keenly aware of his religious territory—Jews threaten Pilate
- Barabbas is truly guilty of crime—the people ask for him instead of Jesus
- Barabbas was actually attempting insurrection—Jesus is accused of it
- Jesus is taken—Barabbas is set free—this is the story of Savior and sinner—for all time
- Pilate states 4 times that he finds Jesus innocent: Luke 23:4, 14, 15, 22—John 18:38, 19:4,6

Luke 23:20-25

And Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, but they kept on calling out, saying, “Crucify, crucify Him!” And he said to them the third time, “Why, what evil has this man done? I have found in Him no guilt demanding death; I will therefore punish Him and release Him.” But they were insistent, with loud voices asking that He be crucified. And their voices began to prevail. And Pilate pronounced sentence that their demand should be granted. And he released the man they were asking for who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, but he delivered Jesus to their will.

- Punish—scourging (meant to appease their demands)

Luke 23:26-32

And when they led Him away, they laid hold of one Simon of Cyrene, coming in from the country, and placed on him the cross to carry behind Jesus.

And there were following Him a great multitude of the people, and of women who were mourning and lamenting Him. But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. “For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ “Then they will begin TO SAY TO THE MOUNTAINS, ‘FALL ON US,’ AND TO THE HILLS, ‘COVER US.’ “For if they do these things in the green tree, what will happen in the dry?”

And two others also, who were criminals, were being led away to be put to death with Him.

- Simon—on his way to Jerusalem—perhaps this would disqualify him from participation in Passover—he had not been a part of the rejection of Jesus
- Mark describes Simon as father of Alexander and Rufus (Mk 15:21)—read Rom 16:13
- Normally convicted criminals carry their own cross
- Cyrene—a city in Africa—Acts 2:10, 6:9
- Speaks to the women—speaks that the sorrow is on them—weep for yourselves—their own sons will die in 70AD
- 'for if they do these things....'—If the Roman army acts like this in the presence of Son of God—what will they do to Jerusalem after His death

Luke 23:33-38

And when they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves. And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One.” And the soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him,

offering Him sour wine, and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!” Now there was also an inscription above Him, “THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

- Jesus—asking God to forgive—only found in Luke
- Place called The Skull—Latin: Calvary—Greek: Golgotha
- Crucifixion—designed to be a slow and painful death
- Treated His garments with more care than Him
- All four gospels mention inscription—placards placed to announce crime

Luke 23:39-43

And one of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!” But the other answered, and rebuking him said, “Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? “And we indeed justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”

- Conversation with criminals only recorded in Luke
- As one criminal has a change of heart—Jesus responds
- Paradise—a Persian word meaning a 'walled garden'
- Criminal asks Jesus to act without believing He can or will

Luke 23:44-49

And it was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, the sun being obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.” And having said this, He breathed His last. Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he began praising God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent.” And all the

multitudes who came together for this spectacle, when they observed what had happened, began to return, beating their breasts. And all His acquaintances and the women who accompanied Him from Galilee, were standing at a distance, seeing these things.

- Sixth hour is noon—sun stops shining for three hours midday
- At His death—curtain between Holy Place and Holy of Holies is torn—forever giving access to man without a priest or sacrifice because Jesus fulfills both roles—Heb 4:14-16—death of Jesus opens way to presence of God
- People began to return—beating their breasts—this penitent response may have prepared them to receive Him at Pentecost
- At His death—Roman official/profession of faith—people/sorrowful and contrite—women followers/stood and bore witness
- John 19:30—It is finished---it is one word—Crucified—Victorious
- Final prayer is Psalm 31:5—with one word added: Father This verse was prayed by Jewish children to end their day—even on the cross—Jesus was as a child in His Father's arms

Luke 23:50-56

And behold, a man named Joseph, who was a member of the Council, a good and righteous man (he had not consented to their plan and action), a man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who was waiting for the kingdom of God; this man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. And he took it down and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever lain. And it was the preparation day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. Now the women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed after, and saw the tomb and how His body was laid. And they returned and prepared spices and perfumes.

And on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

- Joseph must have been absent from gathering of Sanhedrin because it shows that the vote was unanimous
- Preparation day—no work allowed on Sabbath
- Bodies of criminals—never buried—but left to dogs and vultures to dispose of
- By Friday—6pm—Sabbath had begun
- Legend concerning Joseph: In AD 61—sent by Phillip to Brittain—Glastonbury—with him—he brought chalice from Last Supper—this became the Holy Grail—King Arthur. First church in England built here

Luke Chapter Twenty Three Workbook

Key Words:

Harmonize:

Read Matthew 27. What additional information do you gain about the redemption story?

Dig:

- 1) Who was present when Jesus appears before Pilate?
- 2) What is the turning point in Jesus' appearance before Pontius Pilate?
- 3) Why was Herod glad to see Jesus? How long has he waited to see Him?
- 4) What is unusual about Jesus' appearance before Herod?
- 5) What declarations does Pilate make concerning Jesus?
- 6) What was Barabbas guilty of?
- 7) What do you learn about Herod in Luke 23:8-12?
- 8) How many times does Pilate refute the claims against Christ?
- 9) List the ways Jesus suffers in this chapter.
- 10) Give three reactions from different eyewitnesses to the sufferings of Christ.

Discuss:

- 1) Are you aware of any misconceptions that the world around you has about Jesus? What are they?

- 2) What is injustice? How do you recognize it?

- 3) How are power and authority misused in this chapter?

- 4) How are power and authority modeled in this chapter?

- 5) Why is this chapter similar to Luke 4:1-13?

- 6) What creates a culture of contempt?

Point of Prayer:

Pray for someone you know who needs to experience God's forgiveness

Integrate:

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

Application:

- 1) Have you ever served on a jury? How difficult is it for you to be impartial?

- 2) What kind of people experience the most contempt in our culture?

- 3) Have you experienced being falsely accused? How did you handle that event or season of time?

- 4) Who has disappointed you when you needed them the most?

- 5) When have you been most effected by a death?

- 6) What encouragement did you take from this chapter?

- 7) Who has come alongside you to help bear your burdens? How did they accomplish this?

- 8) What part of this chapter would have terrified you if you were an eyewitness?