

JESUS: INNOCENT, YET CONDEMNED



LUKE 23:1-25

INTRODUCTION

- Kirk Bloodsworth



THEME

Theme: Jesus is the Sovereign Lord who was sentenced unjustly yet according to the eternal plan of God.

I. Jesus Before a Perplexed Pilate (1-7)

The Leaders united front against Jesus (1-2)

Pilate's investigation of the leaders' claims (3)

1) His Kingdom

"not of this world": the inhabited world which is influenced by and dominated by the Spirit of the age

"not of this realm": lit: "not from here"the physical world

2) His mission- "to testify to the truth"

"Some say truth is a power play, a metanarrative constructed by the elite for the purpose of controlling the ignorant masses. To some, truth is subjective, the individual world of preference and opinion. Others believe truth is a collective judgment, the product of cultural consensus, and still others flatly deny the concept of truth altogether.

Here's a simple definition drawn from what the Bible teaches: Truth is that which is consistent with the mind, will, character, glory, and being of God. Even more to the point: Truth is the self-expression of God."(MacArthur)

3) His Followers: "Hear My (Christ') voice"

The word "hear" has 2 parts to its meaning:

1) Speaks of the ability to hear: spiritually

2) Infers response to what is heard: obedience



II. Ridicule at the hands of The Fox (8-12)

- One of the sons of Herod the Great
 - Educated in Rome he secured his rule in Perea and Galilee
 - He was married initially to the daughter of Aretas IV
 - But soon became infatuated, fornicated, and married his half brothers' wife Herodias
 - She was also Herod Antipa's niece so this was an incestuous marriage
 - Coincidentally, it was this relationship that caused John the Baptist to be thrown in prison and eventually beheaded because he spoke out against it
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- Excited to see Jesus: As to see some wonder worked
 - Upon seeing Jesus: Not impressed
 - Has Jesus mocked, ridiculed, and sent back to Pilate (Jesus still innocent)



I. Jesus' Condemnation and Authority (13-25)

- **A Declaration of Innocence (13-15)**
- **Pilate's Compromise and Proposal (16-17)**
- **An Unrelenting Demand for Blood (18-23)**

"And all the people said, 'His blood shall be on us and on our children!'" (Matt. 27:25).

- **A Cowardly Concession (24-25)**

"Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?" (John 19:10)

"You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above" (John 19:11)

CONCLUSION

Jesus will sit in judgment of this world's rulers

All of the wicked participants in Christ's trials who judged and condemned Him did nothing but what God had predetermined must happen. Their decisions did not determine His fate, but rather their own. They wasted the most monumental, unparalleled opportunity that anyone could ever have—a personal encounter with the Son of the living God, the Creator of the universe and the Redeemer of sinners. (MacArthur)

Indifference to and outright rejection of Jesus Christ are both unbelief

The trials of Pilate and Herod prove the innocence of Jesus Christ