**The Gospel of Luke**

**Lesson 23** Luke 22:63-23:43 Jesus Mocked, Tried, and Crucified!

**Questions:**

1. What important truth did you learn from the lecture, and how does it apply to your life?
2. Read Wiersbe pages 145-157.

In what ways was the placement of Jesus’ cross between the two thieves providential? Why was the response of the receptive thief astounding?

1. Read Luke 22:63-23:25 along with Mathew 26:57-67 and John 18:12-14, 19-24. Also, read the article below entitled, “What trials did Jesus face before His crucifixion?”

The night of Jesus’ arrest, He was brought before Annas, Caiaphas, and an assembly of religious leaders called the Sanhedrin (John 18:19-24; Matthew 26:57). After this He was taken before Pilate, the Roman Governor (John 18:28), sent off to Herod (Luke 23:7), and returned to Pilate (Luke 23:11-12), who finally sentenced Him to death.

There were six parts to Jesus’ trial: three stages in a religious court and three stages before   
a Roman court. Jesus was tried before Annas, the former high priest; Caiaphas, the current high priest; and the Sanhedrin. He was charged in these “ecclesiastical” trials with blasphemy, claiming to be the Son of God, the Messiah.

The trials before Jewish authorities, the religious trials, showed the degree to which the Jewish leaders hated Him because they carelessly disregarded many of their own laws. There were several illegalities involved in these trials from the perspective of Jewish law: (1) No trial was to be held during feast time. (2) Each member of the court was to vote individually to convict or acquit, but Jesus was convicted by acclamation. (3) If the death penalty was given, a night must pass before the sentence was carried out; however, only a few hours passed before Jesus was placed on the Cross. (4) The Jews had no authority to execute anyone. (5) No trial was to be held at night, but this trial was held before dawn. (6) The accused was to be given counsel or representation, but Jesus had none. (7) The accused was not to be asked self-incriminating questions, but Jesus was asked if He was the Christ.

The trials before the Roman authorities started with Pilate (John 18:23) after Jesus was beaten. The charges brought against Him were very different from the charges in His religious trials. He was charged with inciting people to riot, forbidding the people to pay their taxes, and claiming to be King. Pilate found no reason to kill Jesus, so he sent Him to Herod (Luke 23:7). Herod had Jesus ridiculed but, wanting to avoid the political liability, sent Jesus back to Pilate (Luke 23:11–12). This was the last trial as Pilate tried to appease the animosity of the Jews by having Jesus scourged. The Roman scourge was a terrible whipping designed to remove the flesh from the back of the one being punished. In a final effort to have Jesus released, Pilate offered the prisoner Barabbas to be crucified and Jesus released, but to no avail. The crowds called for Barabbas to be released and Jesus to be crucified. Pilate granted their demand and surrendered Jesus to their will (Luke 23:25). The trials of Jesus represent the ultimate mockery of justice. Jesus, the most innocent man in the history of the world, was found guilty of crimes and sentenced to death by crucifixion.[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. [Challenge question] List the following trials of Jesus during the night of his arrest and state before whom he stood: (Hint: For help see the article above)

Three stages in a religious court (support your answer with Scriptural verses):

* + Stage 1: Before Annas in John 18:12-14
  + Stage 2:
  + Stage 3:

Three stages in a Roman court (support your answer with Scriptural verses):

* + Stage 1: Before Pilate in Luke 23:1-5
  + Stage 2:
  + Stage 3:

1. What was the key question asked by the chief priests and teachers of the law which sealed Jesus’ destiny (Luke 22:70)
2. How did Jesus respond? Who was Jesus claiming to be (John 8:58)?
3. What charge did the Sanhedrin bring against Jesus? After interviewing Jesus, how did Pilate respond and to whom did he send Jesus?
4. Herod asked Jesus many questions. What was Jesus’ response and what prophecy was fulfilled in Isaiah 53?
5. Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate for his third trial in the Roman courts. What verdict did Pilate come to and what was the response of the religious leaders?
6. Pilate wanted to release Jesus because he could find nothing with which to charge him. Thus, Pilate offered to have Jesus punished and released. What was the response of the religious leaders and what does this say about their hearts?
7. Read Luke 23:26-43 along with John 19:17-27. The Crucifixion of Jesus!
8. Jesus was led away, and a man named Simon was forced to carry the cross for him.   
   A large number of women stood on the side and mourned and wailed for him. What   
   did Jesus say to them and about what event was he prophesying?
9. As Jesus hung on the cross beside two criminals what did he utter to his heavenly Father? What does this tell you about the heart of God?
10. What was the response of the people including the soldiers?
11. What was the response of the two criminals?
12. How did Jesus respond to the repentant criminal?
13. Read the following article entitled, “Why was Jesus crucified?”

There is both an earthly reason and a heavenly reason Jesus was crucified. Simply put, the earthly reason is that mankind is evil. The heavenly reason is that God is good.

*The earthly reason Jesus was crucified: mankind is evil.* Wicked men conspired against Him, falsely accused Him, and murdered Him. The leaders of Israel had several reasons they wanted Jesus to be executed. They were envious of His following (Matthew 27:18). They were afraid that Jesus would gather too large a following, which might bring the Roman authorities down on the nation, causing them to lose their positions (John 11:48). They hated the fact that Jesus called out their sin publicly (Matthew 23). And they thought He was blaspheming when He claimed to be the Son of God (Luke 22:66–71). But all these reasons were simply symptoms of their underlying unbelief (John 5:46).

Jesus was crucified, rather than stoned, hanged, drowned, etc., because His execution was carried out by the Romans. Crucifixion was the method of execution employed by the Roman Empire to make an example of someone and to deter others from committing the same offense. It was normal to post the charges against the condemned on the cross. Pilate posted the charge “King of the Jews” on Jesus’ cross (Matthew 27:37). The Jewish leaders had made this accusation to goad the Roman governor into executing Jesus. John 19:12 reports, “From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, ‘If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.’” Pilate could not afford to be seen as tolerating a rival to Caesar.

*The heavenly reason Jesus was crucified: God is good.* God had a plan to save sinners, and Jesus was the Lamb of God who came to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Even though the act of crucifying Jesus was evil, the crucifixion was still the plan of God to make atonement for sin. “Indeed, Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen” (Acts 4:27–28).

The crucifixion was not a case of evil getting out of control. Jesus told Pilate, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above” (John 19:11). The powers of darkness were given divine permission to act (Luke 22:53). God allowed the hatred, the conspiracy, the false accusations, the sham trials, and the murder of His Son. In the crucifixion of Christ, God used the evil desires of evil men to accomplish the greatest good: the provision of salvation for mankind. “It was the LORD’s will to crush Him and to cause Him to suffer” (Isaiah 53:10); the result was glorious: “He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (verse 12).

There is nothing in Old Testament prophecy that explicitly mandates that the Messiah be crucified. At the same time, there are hints of the manner of His death in the Law and the Prophets. In Galatians 3:13, Paul applies Deuteronomy 21:22–23 to the death of Christ. Crucifixion allowed for the “piercing” mentioned in Zechariah 12:10 (cf. John 19:37). Crucifixion results in the shedding of blood, necessary for a sacrifice (Hebrews 9:22; cf. Leviticus 17:11). In crucifixion, the breaking of bones can be avoided (Exodus 12:46; cf. John 19:36). And the crucifixion of Christ perfectly fits the description of the anguish David faced in Psalm 22.

We all have committed sins, and we are all worthy of death, but Christ took our place. He was publicly executed, and His blood was shed on our behalf, as Paul explains in Romans 3:25–26: “God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”

In the final analysis, the reason that Jesus was crucified is the answer that each of us must come to understand and embrace by faith: *Jesus was crucified to pay for my sin so that I can be forgiven and be made right with God*.[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. Give several reasons the leaders of Israel wanted Jesus to be crucified?
2. What are the two main reasons Jesus was crucified?
3. Ultimately, and in the final analysis, why was Jesus crucified? How does this make   
   you feel about what Jesus did for you (John 15:13; Romans 5:8)?
4. Explain Acts 4:23 as it relates to the crucifixion.
5. What is the most important truth you learned from this lesson and how will it change   
   the way you live?

1. “What trials did Jesus face before His crucifixion?” Got Questions Ministries, accessed December 12, 2022, [https://www.gotquestions.org/trials-of-Jesus.html] [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Why was Jesus Crucified?” Got Questions Ministries, accessed December 12, 2022, [https://www.gotquestions.org/why-was-Jesus-crucified.html] [↑](#footnote-ref-2)