

The Passion of the Christ Movie and Study – Week 3 of 7

Jesus Before Pilate, Herod, and Pilate!

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General Information:

- Schedule: Saturdays 3:00; Sundays 10:30
- 6th grade and older are welcome to attend!
- *Caution!* The movie is brutal, *but it does portray what Jesus endured for us all!*
- Let us realize the terrible reality of sin *and greatly rejoice in God's gift of salvation!*
- This study will conclude on Palm Sunday and *be excellent preparation for Holy Week!*

A Summary of our 7-Week Study (*The 119-minute movie will be viewed in seven 17-minute segments*):

- 1: *Jesus Prays in Gethsemane and is Arrested!*
- 2: *Jesus is Tried by the Sanhedrin; Peter's Denial; Judas' Death!*
- 3: *Jesus Before Pilate, Herod, and Pilate!*
- 4: *Jesus is Beaten and Condemned!*
- 5: *Jesus' Journey to Golgotha!*
- 6: *Jesus is Crucified; One Criminal is Saved!*
- 7: *Jesus' Speaks, Dies, is Buried, and is Raised!*

What is a malefactor? “an evildoer or criminal”
(Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition, 1988)

Today's Movie Clip! (38:03 – 51:58)

Jesus Delivered to Pilate (Matt. 27:1-2; Mark 15:1; Luke 23:1; John 18:28)

The Death of Judas (Matt. 27:3-10)

Jesus Before Pilate – The First Roman Trial

(Matt. 27:11-14; Mark 15:2-5; Luke 23:2-7; John 18:29-38):

1. Only John records this exchange between Pilate and the Jews: “What charges are you bringing against this man?” “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.” Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” “But **we have no right to execute anyone,**” the Jews objected (John 18:29-31 NIV).

- a. CSSB 1643: “They were looking for an execution, not a fair trial. ... Sometimes the Romans seem to have condoned local executions (Stephen, Acts 7), but normally [only the Romans] retained the right to inflict the death penalty.”
- b. Jesus' death had to be by crucifixion (*a method used by the Romans*): ♦to fulfill the Scriptures (Matt. 26:2) and ♦to put Him under God's curse:
 - i. “If a man guilty of a capital offense is put to death and his body is hung on a tree, you must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse (Deut. 21:22-23 NIV).
 - ii. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree” (Gal 3:13 NIV).

2. Matthew, Luke, and John combine Jesus' first and third Roman trials before Pilate; *only Luke records Jesus going before Herod.*

^{NIV} **Luke 23:2** And they began to accuse him, saying, “**We have found this man subverting [undermining, threatening] our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king.**”

3. The Sanhedrin mentioned *different charges against Jesus* to get Pilate's attention, so that he would put Jesus on

trial and hopefully condemn Him to death by crucifixion.

- a. What was their *original* charge?

“You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” They all condemned him as worthy of death (Mark 14:64 NIV).

- b. Did Jesus oppose the payment of taxes? Yes No

Jesus said: “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's” (Luke 20:25 NIV).

- c. Why was Jesus’ kingship of no threat to Caesar?

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place” (John 18:36 NIV).

³ So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied.

4. Matthew includes this powerful statement: “Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matt. 26:53 NIV).

“A Roman legion had 6,000 soldiers.” (CSSB 1492) Therefore, 12 legions could have been referring to 72,000 angels!

5. John includes this important exchange:
NIV **John 18:37-38** “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” “What is truth?” retorted Pilate.

⁴ Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

6. How many times did Pilate declare Jesus to be innocent? Luke (23:4, 14, 22) and John (18:38; 19:4; 19:6) both record three times, four in Luke if you count what

Pilate said about Herod concluding that Jesus had done nothing deserving of death (Luke 23:15).

⁵ But they insisted, “**He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching.**”

7. Two very different reactions to Jesus:

- a. The Pharisees: Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?” [see Matt. 15:7-9] He replied, ... “Leave them; they are blind guides” (Matt. 15:12-14 NIV).
- b. The people: [They] were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel (Matt. 15:31 NIV).

⁵⁻⁷ **He started in Galilee** and has come all the way here.” On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that **Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction**, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

8. Galilee in the north: Herod’s jurisdiction.
9. Pilate was the governor over Judea in the south: Pilate jumped at the chance to push Jesus off on Herod.
10. CSSB 1594: “Herod’s main headquarters was in Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee; but, like Pilate, he had come to Jerusalem because of the crowds at Passover.”



Jesus Before Herod – The Second Roman Trial

(Luke 23:8-12):

^{NIV} **Luke 23:8** When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, **he hoped to see him perform some miracle.**

11. Herod had John the Baptizer beheaded:

In connection with John's death, Luke records: "Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was going on. And he was perplexed, because some were saying that John had been raised from the dead, others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that one of the prophets of long ago had come back to life. But Herod said, 'I beheaded John. Who, then, is this I hear such things about?' And he tried to see [Jesus]" (Luke 9:7-9 NIV).

12. Luke records: "At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, 'Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you'" (Luke 13:31 NIV).

Were the Pharisees trying to help Jesus?
CSSB 1576: "The Pharisees wanted to frighten Jesus into leaving this area [*in the north*] and going to Judea [*in the south*]."

13. Is your faith grounded ♦on signs and miracles or ♦on God's Word? _____

- a. "The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. He sighed deeply and said, 'Why does this generation ask for a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to it'" (Mark 8:11-12 NIV).
- b. "Abraham replied [to the rich man in hell], 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'" 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the

Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead'" (Luke 16:29-31 NIV).

⁹⁻¹² [Herod] plied him with many questions, but **Jesus gave him no answer** [*Isaiah 53:7 – tells us that Jesus would remain silent*]. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. **Dressing him in an elegant robe**, they sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became friends--before this they had been enemies.

- 14. CSSB 1536:** "elegant robe" – "Probably an old military cloak, whose color suggested royalty."

Jesus Before Pilate Again – The Third Roman

Trial (Matt. 27:11-26; Mark 15:1-15; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:28-19:16):

^{NIV} **Luke 23:13-16** Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, **I will punish him and then release him.**"

- 15. CSSB 1595:** "Although Pilate found Jesus 'not guilty' as charged, he was willing to have him illegally beaten in order to satisfy the chief priests and the people... Scourging, though not intended to kill, was sometimes fatal."

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! **Release Barabbas to us!**" (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

- 16. Matthew** (27:15-23), **Mark** (15:6-14), and **John** (18:39-40): They all include more details on the annual custom of the governor releasing to the people a criminal of their choice. Though Pilate was hoping the people would choose

Jesus, it seems that the members of the Sanhedrin incited the people to choose Barabbas.

²⁰⁻²³ Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore, I will have him punished and then release him.” But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed.

17. It was the Roman Governor’s duty to uphold justice: However, Pilate – fearing ♦the crowds, ♦the loss of his position, and ♦the loss of his life – gave in to injustice!

- a. Are you also controlled – *at times* – by an unhealthy fear? Y N
- b. Who should we fear? _____
^{NAS} **Matthew 10:28** “...do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matt. 10:28 NAS).
- c. Why? _____
- d. ^{NAS} **Isaiah 41:10** “Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

²⁴⁻²⁵ So Pilate decided to grant their demand. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

18. Who was responsible for Jesus’ death?

- a. The Jews: Y N
- b. Us? Y N Why or why not?

19. Memory Verse: ^{NAS} **John 12:24** “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

Jesus is that single seed who laid down His life so that we, *through Him*, could have life eternal!

Next week: *Jesus is Beaten and Condemned* ☹!