

THE REALLY GOOD LIFE!

The Life of Christ Series

Gospel of Luke

Civil Court Case: Religious Leaders vs. Jesus

Luke 23:1-12

In our previous verses last week (Luke 22:63-71), Jesus was taken to the Sanhedrin for a formal trial in an erroneous religious court and finds Jesus guilty of blasphemy. However, this guilty verdict does not give these corrupt religious leaders the authority to execute Jesus. They now take their case against Jesus to civil court.

Pontius Pilate's Verdict: Innocent

Luke 23:1-12

23 Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate. ²And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this *fellow* perverting ^[a]the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King." ³Then Pilate asked Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" He answered him and said, "*It is as you say.*" ⁴So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man." ⁵But they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place."

⁶When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. ⁷And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long *time* to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. ⁹Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. ¹⁰And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. ¹¹Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked *Him*, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. ¹²That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

1. Define "whole multitude" in v.1 ? What accusations did this *mob* bring before Pilate? What was Pilate's verdict and why?
2. If Pilate already declared a verdict, why would he send them to Herod? What was Pilate's objective? What does Pilate's action say about his character?
3. Why do you think Jesus would not answer Herod? Why wouldn't Jesus *defend* Himself?
4. If Herod wanted to meet Jesus for a long time, why did he treat Jesus the way he did?
5. Are there people today that treat Jesus the same way as Herod? Explain. What is the danger in that?
6. In reflecting on the actions of religious leaders, Pilate and Herod, what can we learn from them in our walk as believers?
7. What can we learn from Jesus and His response to them?