

Luke 22:63-23:25 — The Guards Mock Jesus

⁶³ The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. ⁶⁴ They blindfolded him and demanded, “Prophesy! Who hit you?” ⁶⁵ And they said many other insulting things to him.

Jesus Before Pilate and Herod

⁶⁶ At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. ⁶⁷ “If you are the Christ,” they said, “tell us.”

Jesus answered, “If I tell you, you will not believe me, ⁶⁸ and if I asked you, you would not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.”

⁷⁰ They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?”

He replied, “You are right in saying I am.”

⁷¹ Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.”

Luke 23

¹ Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. ² And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king.”

³ So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied.

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

⁵ But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

⁶ On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷ When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

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. ⁹ He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹² That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

¹³ Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”

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

²⁰ Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. ²¹ But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

²² 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.”

²³ But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand. ²⁵ 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.

Luke 22:63-23:25

1. (22:63-65) What did Luke imply about Jesus' actions by not mentioning any details about how he responded to the taunting of the guards?
2. How are the details of Jesus' mockery relevant to us today? How does Jesus want us to react to criticism, insults, or scorn?
3. Why do you think God spares some believers from persecution but not others? In what way might you actually benefit by suffering for your faith?
4. (22:66-23:25) Why might someone try to influence the process of justice deceitfully?
5. Of what was Jesus accused? (23:2) Were the charges true? Do we sometimes mix lies with the truth? Why?
6. Pilate sent Jesus to Herod (23:7). How would you feel if you were Herod and Jesus refused to speak to you? (23:9) Herod had previously beheaded John the Baptist; why did he do nothing to Jesus except send him back to Pilate? (23:11)
7. In Verse 23:16 Pilate offered to the leaders and crowd to punish Jesus and release him. What did "punish him" mean?
8. Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent. Pilate was the ruler and could have released him. Why didn't he do so? In Pilate's place, what would you have done?
9. How did the fear of losing his position and pressure from others influence Pilate? Do you ever feel such fear or pressure? How do you respond to it?
10. Have you ever been mistreated or ridiculed or ostracized because of your faith in Jesus? How did you respond? How should Christians respond?
11. In Luke 19:45, Jesus confronted injustice with action but here he was silent. Why? What particular form of injustice makes your blood boil? How do you decide to fight for what is right and when not to? Have you faced that decision recently?
12. What is the key message for *you* in this familiar but horrifying chapter of Jesus' life story?