

LUKE 23:1-25

REVIEW...

- **LUKE 22:1-38** – The Passover...
 - The religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus - but they feared the Passover crowd...
 - Judas Iscariot - possessed by Satan - came to the leaders to betray Jesus...
- **LUKE 22:39-53** – The Garden and Betrayal...
 - Jesus took the disciples to Gethsemane to pray...
 - There He took upon Himself the sin of the whole world - sweet drops of blood...
 - Father if there is any other way - but not my will but your will be done!
 - Judas led a small army to come and betray Jesus to the Jewish leaders with a kiss...
- **LUKE 22:54-71** - The trial of Jesus..
 - Jesus was taken to be tried - Peter watched from outside in the courtyard...
 - 3 times Peter denied knowing Jesus - with an oath and cursing...
 - Then the rooster crowed – Jesus turned and looked – Peter went out wept bitterly
 - Mock justice - Illegal trial held at night in the home of Caiaphas the High Priest
 - In the morning they held second trial - just for appearances...
 - They asked if Jesus was the 'Son of God' - 'I AM' - that was all they needed to hear...

WHAT TO DO WITH JESUS... (4 POINTS)

- **INTRODUCTION...**
 - People have a lot of different ideas about Jesus Christ...
 - What it means to believe in Jesus - the role Jesus should play in our daily lives...
 - Some try to limit Jesus to a Religion / others use church as a way to have a have fun...
 - Many just follow the crowd - with no thought of where they are going...
 - There are even some who know who Jesus is - but are afraid to stand up for Him...
 - At the trial of Jesus - we are going to see all 4 of these reactions to Christ...
- **1ST – RELIGION - JESUS BEFORE THE JEWISH LEADERS... vs. 1-7**
 - The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus – but they lacked the authority... vs. 1
 - **John 18:31** – “The Jews said, ‘It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death...’”
 - Around Jesus birth – Rome took away the Jewish right of Capital Punishment...
 - The leaders could condemn Jesus – but they did not have the right to kill Him...
 - So Jesus (*God Almighty*) was brought bound – to be judged before Pontius Pilate...
 - The Roman Governor of the province of Judea from AD 26-36...
 - The Jewish leaders made 4 accusations against Jesus... vs. 2-3
 - 1ST - They accused Jesus of claiming to be the Son of God – **John 19:7**
 - This accusation that was true – Jesus did not claim to be God – He was God!
 - When Pilate heard this he was fearful – and for good reason!
 - Pilate was not sitting in judgment of Jesus – Pilate was sitting before his judge!
 - **People need Jesus – one day they will all ‘stand’ before Him - Philippians 2:10-11**

- And unless they confess – repent – and accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord...
- They will have to stand before Jesus and be judged for all their sins...
- That is why we tell anyone/ everyone about the Good news of the Gospel!
- 2nd - They accused Jesus of perverting the nation...
 - Jesus had gathered a VERY large following from all over Israel...
 - They accused Jesus' teachings of being contrary to the best interests of Rome...
 - Because He was teaching about the Kingdom of God - not the kingdom of Rome...
 - But their real problem was Jesus was not teaching the people THEIR religion...
 - When we tell people about the Good News - tell people about Jesus...
 - They often accuse us of trying to mislead them / change their religion...
 - But we are not preaching a message of religion - we are talking about relationship...
 - We are preaching a message of salvation - through knowing Jesus Christ!
- 3rd - They accused Jesus of forbidding others to pay Roman taxes...
 - The Jewish leaders had asked Jesus about paying taxes to Caesar – **Mark 12:16-17**
 - But Jesus' answer had been to take a Roman coin – with Caesars image on it...
 - Give to Caesar the things that are his – but give to God the things that are God's...
 - They lied in an attempt to discredit Jesus - keep others from listening to Him...
 - **Matthew 23:13** - "You will not let others enter the kingdom of heaven, and you will not go in yourselves."
 - Religion keeps people from knowing Jesus - keeps them out of heaven -...
 - They trust in their traditions and rituals to save them rather than Jesus...
 - They can become so invested in their religion - a relationship Jesus threatens them
 - And they will lie to discredit - anyone who dares to question what they believe!
- 4th - They accused Jesus of making Himself King...
 - This was a very serious accusation – it was punishable by death...
 - At this Pilate took Jesus aside into his palace - to interrogate Him - **John 18:33-38...**
 - There Pilate asked Jesus – 'Are you the King of the Jews'...
 - **John 18:36-38**–"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."
 - Jesus was not here to set up His Kingdom - He was here to save men from sin!
 - We are not here to get others to come to our church - build our kingdom...
 - We are here to tell people about Jesus - get them into heaven!
- Pilate came back and said to the leaders - 'I find not fault in this man'...
 - The leaders were all the more determined for Pilate to convict Jesus...
 - They accused Jesus of stirring up people all the way from Galilee to Jerusalem...
 - When Pilate heard Galilee - he asked and found out Jesus was from the Galilee...
 - He sent Jesus to Herod (*the ruler of the Galilee*) in Jerusalem - to be Jesus' judge...
 - When you preach Jesus - not religion - people will not be able to argue with you...
 - Because you are not giving your opinion - you are giving them the Word of God!
 - But what they can do is put off the decision - 'talk about this some other time'...
 - The problem is God does not guarantee anyone tomorrow!
 - Right now is the time to believe - to receive the free gift/grace of God!

- **II Corinthians 6:2** - "Today is the day of salvation..."

- **2ND – ENTERTAINED - JESUS BEFORE HEROD... vs. 8-12**

- Herod Antipas - the son of Herod the great...
 - The same Herod who had married Herodias - the wife of his brother Philip...
 - John the Baptist apposed the adulterous marriage - **Matthew 14:1 / Mark 6:14**
 - Herod had John arrested - and subsequently beheaded - at the request of his 'wife'...
- Herod was VERY 'happy' to see Jesus...
 - He had heard all about the ministry of Jesus - the miracles He had performed...
 - He was hoping Jesus would do a miracle for him - like an entertainment show...
 - **There are many people who come to church today seeking to be entertained...**
 - **They want the worship to be like a concert / the pastor to tell funny jokes...**
 - **They want to come out of the service with a smile on their face - happy...**
 - **But church is not a theatre or a show / it is a place to hear the truth even if it hurts...**
 - **The cross is not entertaining - it is not fun to think of God suffering for our sins!**
 - **Church is a place where sin is confronted - sinners are saved by the power of the cross!**
- Herod questioned Jesus with many words...
 - And the chief priests jumped in - making all their accusations again...
 - Yet Jesus answered nothing - He had no answers for Herod's questions...
 - **Often times people come away from church / reading their Bibles empty...**
 - **They think that the Bible had no answers to their questions...**
 - **But the problem was not the Bible - the problem was the questions being asked...**
 - **The Bible does not tell us how to get rich in life - it tells us how to get to heaven!**
 - **If we come with the right questions - we will find all the answers we need!**
- Herod and his soldiers mocked Jesus...
 - They put a gorgeous purple robe on Jesus - a sign of royalty...
 - But they were not honoring Jesus - they were dressing Him up to mock Him...
 - Because Jesus would not entertain/answer them - they made fun of Jesus
 - **People often choose to make fun of Jesus / church - as if life is all just a joke...**
 - **The problem is their laughing is very short lived...**
- Having finished their 'fun' - they sent Jesus back to Pilate...
 - Pilate and Herod had been at odds with each other - enemies...
 - But after this day - after the trial of Jesus - they became friends...
 - **The best way for us to feel good about our sin - is to hang out with other sinners...**
 - **Because they do the same things we do - we do not feel as bad / convicted...**
 - **On judgment day we will stand alone - accountable for every word / action / thought**

- **3RD – FOLLOWING THE CROWD - JESUS BEFORE THE MULTITUDES... vs. 13-23**

- Pilate called together the chief priests / leaders of Israel...
 - He rehearsed their accusation of Jesus - 'one who misleads the people of Israel'...
 - But having examined Jesus - Pilate found nothing worthy of death...
 - He sent him to Herod - and he found not crime worthy of death...
 - So Pilate would 'punish' Jesus (*to pacify the leaders*) and then release Him...

- Pilate had a custom of releasing a prisoner for the Passover festival...
 - In an act of good will – and celebration – he would release Jesus...
- o But the people cried out - 'Away with Jesus - release Barabbas!'
- Barabbas was a rebel/robber/and murderer – **John 18:40**
 - He was guilty of everything they accused Jesus of – and more!
 - Pilate wanted to release Jesus - so he offered Him again...
 - But the people kept on shouting out - 'Crucify Him - crucify Him!'
 - The crowd whom days earlier had cried out – Hosanna - now wanted Jesus dead...
 - The reason - they were just following the crowd - not matter where it led...
 - **We often do what others do - because everyone else is doing the same thing...**
 - **It is always a wise question to ask - whom am I following - where are they going...**
 - **Matthew 15:14 - "If the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."**
 - **When we follow the crowd - we can easily be led the wrong way...**
 - **Following Jesus means that you do not 'go with the flow' - you stand out...**
 - **If no one else goes to church - if no one else wants to do what is right...**
 - **Are we still willing to follow Christ - stand up for the truth...**
- o Pilate questions the people - what evil has Jesus done...
- Pilate was convinced of Jesus' innocence – further he had been warned by his wife...
 - She had a dream - have nothing to do with that righteous man – **Matthew 27:19**
 - The crowd's answer – they kept crying out even louder – CRUCIFY!
 - **John 19:15 – "Pilate said to them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but Caesar!'"**
 - **The world cannot give a good reason why they do not want Jesus – the Bible – Church**
 - **Because they don't want to admit the real reason - they want their sin – John 3:19**
 - **If we seek to please the world – follow the crowd – go with the flow...**
 - **We are chose this world rather than Jesus - it means we reject Jesus - James 4:4**
- **4TH – AFRAID TO STAND UP - JESUS BEFORE PILATE... VS. 24-25**
- o Pilate washed his hands – **Matthew 27:24**
- Pilate knew Jesus was innocent - he knew he should stand up for Christ...
 - But instead Pilate washed his hands of Jesus innocent blood...
 - Symbolic – but not true – Pilate was accountable for his actions...
 - He chose to please the crowds – rather than do what he knew was right...
- o Pilate released Barabbas – and delivered Jesus to be crucified...
- **There is no difference - the ones who reject Jesus – the ones who stand and do nothing**
 - **There is no middle ground – you either stand for Jesus – or stand for this world...**
 - **If we are not willing to stand up for Jesus - be bold for the Lord...**
 - **Luke 12:8 - "He who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.**
- o 4 different groups - 4 different reactions...
- The leaders argued religion / Herod looked to be entertained...
 - The multitudes cried out crucify / and Pilate would not take a stand...
 - **But the only way to be saved is to have a relationship with Jesus Christ...**

- Coming to the Word / Church - willing to ask the hard questions - deal with sin...
- Not following the crowd - but taking a stand for Jesus!