Luke 23:1-25

Review…

- **Luke 22:1-38** – The Passover...
  - The religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus - but the 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…

- 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 shouted 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...
- 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**
  - 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…
  - 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.
  - 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!