

# The Trials – Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod

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**“My Kingdom is not of this world.”** John 18:36

## Mark 15:1-5

# Summary of the Evening

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- It's Passover week in Jerusalem and just days earlier the people hailed Jesus as their King as He entered the city.
- The religious leaders want Jesus dead, but they don't want to arrest Him in daylight because they think the mob will revolt.
- Judas solves their dilemma by betraying Jesus for a price of 30 pieces of silver, the price of a slave, fulfilling the prophecy of Zech. 11:12-13, and led the arrestors to Jesus at The Garden of Gethsemane.
- They take Him immediately to the high priests' quarters (around 2-3 am), first to Annas and then to Caiaphas along with the Sanhedrin (Council of 70 men plus the High Priest) for a mock trial, but even after bribing witnesses to develop a charge against Jesus, they could not accuse Him of any Roman crime. So they accused Him of Blasphemy for claiming He was the Messiah, the Son of God.
- Judas sold his soul. Annas, Caiaphas, Pilate and Herod thought they sat in judgment on Jesus, **but the reality is Jesus is their judge**. In their verdicts, **they condemned themselves as does everyone who rejects Jesus**.

# Jesus Christ is the Judge & Saviour

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- The Bible teaches that every human being will be brought before the judgment throne of God for an ultimate and decisive judgment (2 Cor. 5:10), and Christ Himself will be the judge (John 5:27). We are all naturally under the condemnation of God.
- **Condemned is a legal term meaning to be found guilty**, and deserving of the full penalty of the law (Spiritual Death - Hell).
- In order to not be condemned and found guilty, **we need to be “Justified” or declared “Righteous”**, thereby being judged as fulfilling all the requirements of the Law (10 Commandments)
- Since **“there is none righteous”** and **“all have sinned”**, **all of humanity is condemned already because of our sins (Hell is the result).**

# The Gospel = Salvation Message

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- Therefore we need to be saved, we need our sins forgiven, to receive the righteousness of God, and we are incapable of saving ourselves by our own works.
- Sin can only be forgiven by God through the shedding of blood (Heb 9:22) of a substitute that is acceptable to God.
- Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb and the Atoning substitutional sacrifice, and His shed blood on the Cross paid the ransom price of redeeming from us the wrath of God and delivering us from the bondage of sin.
- Salvation results in us receiving Eternal Life (Heaven)
- Salvation is a gift from God that we do not deserve (grace), and it can only be obtained by repenting (turning to Jesus) and putting your Trust in Jesus as your Lord and Saviour

Mark 15:1-5

# Scripture

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- **Mark 16:16** “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; **but he who does not believe will be condemned.**”
- **Rom. 3:23; 6:23** – “**all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of the God” ...”For **the wages of sin is death**, but the **gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus** our Lord.”
- **Rom. 8:1** – “*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus*, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** – “For He made Him who knew no sin *to be sin for us*, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”

# Order of Jesus' Trials

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- Before Annas (John 18:13) (Caiaphas' Father-in-law)
- Before Caiaphas & the Sanhedrin (Mark 14:53-65)
- Before the Sanhedrin Again (Mark 15:1)
- Before Pilate (Mark 15:2-5)
- Before Herod (Luke 23:6-12)
- Before Pilate (Mark 15:6-15)

# Legal System that Condemned Jesus

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- **Two legal systems—Jewish & Roman**—they still underline modern jurisprudence.
- The first two trials of Annas & Caiaphas were informal, and the third by the Sanhedrin was the formal trial, all under Jewish Law.
- **The Jewish Trials were illegal by their own standards:**
  - Judge was not impartial – did not protect accused – wasn't a quorum of 23 judges present – judges took part in arrest
  - Arrest was carried out under no formal accusation.
  - Criminal trials could only occur in the day.
  - Guilty verdicts could not be delivered the same day as the trial.
  - Search for hostile testimony (false witnesses) was illegal.
- **No valid evidence was found and Pilate & Herod declared Him innocent. By crucifying Jesus to please the people, Pilate broke Roman law.**

Luke 22:66-71; Mark 15:1

# Jesus Faces Sanhedrin

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- Luke 22 <sup>66</sup> **As soon as it was day**, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together and led Him into their council, saying, <sup>67</sup> **“If You are the Christ, tell us.”**
- But He said to them, **“If I tell you, you will by no means believe. <sup>68</sup> And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. <sup>69</sup> Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.”**
- <sup>70</sup> Then they all said, **“Are You then the Son of God?”**
- So He said to them, **“You rightly say that I am.”**
- <sup>71</sup> And they said, “What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth.”



## Mark 15:1-5

# Jesus Faces Sanhedrin: 5-6 AM

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- Jesus next faces the Sanhedrin council before sending Jesus to Pilate for the final decision. Their decision was reached long before in Galilee (Mark 3:6; 8:11; 10:2; 11:18; 12:12; 14:44).
- Jesus is held prisoner between 3 am and 5 am and He is mocked, beaten & spit on.
- A Jewish trial must be held in the daylight, so they wait till 6 am (Mark 15:1 “..in the morning...”). They needed to make the trial legitimate and decide on what formal charges to bring to Pilate. They couldn’t bring a religious charge so they decided insurrection (claiming to be a King)
- John 18:31 – it says that the Jews were not permitted to put anyone to death, legally. The Romans must authorize it.
- The Jews sometimes killed by mob violence by stoning (i.e. Stephen), but Jesus must be “lifted up” and therefore it must be done by the Romans.
- As the predictions of the Cross begin to be fulfilled, Jesus’ roles as the “**Suffering Servant**” and **Authoritative King** become clear.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFEULNye4I4> – 3 Min Video on Caiaphas

## Jesus is Taken Before Pilate

<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
<p><b>Matthew 27.1</b> When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: <b>27.2</b> And when they had <u>bound him</u>, they led him away, and delivered him to <b>Pontius</b> Pilate the governor. <b>27.11</b> And Jesus stood before the <b>governor</b>: and the governor asked him, saying, <b><u>Art thou the King of the Jews?</u></b> And Jesus said unto him, <b>Thou sayest.</b> <b>27.12</b> And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. <b>27.13</b> Then said Pilate unto him, Hearst thou not how many things they witness against thee?<b>27.14</b> And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.</p>	<p><b>Mark 15.1</b> And straightway in the <b>morning</b> the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the <b>whole council</b>, and <b>bound Jesus</b>, and carried him away, and <b>delivered him to Pilate</b>.</p> <p><b>15.2</b> And Pilate asked him, <b><u>Art thou the King of the Jews?</u></b> And he answering said unto him, <b>Thou sayest it.</b></p> <p><b>15.3</b> And the <b>chief priests</b> accused him of many things: but he answered <b>nothing</b>. <b>15.4</b> And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee.</p> <p><b>15.5</b> But Jesus yet answered <b>nothing</b>; so that <b>Pilate marvelled</b>.</p>	<p><b>Luke 23.1</b> And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. <b>23.2</b> And they began to accuse him, saying, <b>We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.</b> <b>23.3</b> And Pilate asked him, saying, <b><u>Art thou the King of the Jews?</u></b> And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it.</p> <p><b>23.4</b> Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, <b><u>I find no fault in this man.</u></b> <b>23.5</b> And they were the more fierce, saying, <b>He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place.</b> <b>23.6</b> When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilean.</p>	<p><b>John 18.28</b> Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But <b>they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled</b>, but that they might eat the Passover. <b>18.29</b> Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? <b>...18.31</b> Then said Pilate unto them, <b><u>Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:</u></b> <b>18.32</b> That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die. <b>18.33</b> Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, <b><u>Art thou the King of the Jews?</u></b> <b>18.34</b> Jesus answered him, <b>Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?</b> <b>18.35</b> Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? <b>18.36</b> Jesus answered, <b><u>My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.</u></b> <b>18.37</b> Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, <b>Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.</b></p>

## Mark 15:1-5

# Jesus Faces Pilate

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- Jews weren't allowed to execute Jesus, they need Pilate's permission (Roman Governor of Judea) - John 18:31- "They said, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.'"
- Time is between 5-7 am; Jesus will be on the Cross by 9 am
- It is around this time that Judas begins to feel remorse, and he goes back into the presence of the Sanhedrin and he throws the money down and says, "I have betrayed innocent blood," (Matt. 27:1-10) and then rushes from there to hang himself. He dies and the branch breaks, and his insides are gushed out on the rocks below.
- John 18:28 "They led Jesus from Caiaphas into the praetorium". They did not enter into the praetorium so that they would not be defiled but might eat the Passover." (**hypocrites – murdering the Son of God is alright, but not defiling themselves by the land**).
- Pilate went out to them (because they wouldn't go in) and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" **This is a legal question. Pilate is acting now as a judge.**
- Pilate was fully aware of Jesus. His responsibility was security in Jerusalem, and everyone had been talking about Jesus since His Triumphal Entry. Also, the cohort that went into the Garden of Gethsemane to arrest Jesus would have required permission by Pilate.

Luke 23:2

# The Accusations

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**1. Perverting the Nation;**

**2. Didn't Pay Taxes** (lie – “give to Caesar what is Caesar's)

**3. Claimed to be King of the Jews**

- Pilate ignores the first two accusations. He was most fascinated with the third accusation.
- Jesus would have been badly beaten and bloody by this point. Therefore Pilate's question was probably sarcastic.

# Pilate's First Question

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## Pilate Asks:

- **Mark 15:1-2** “Are you the king of the Jews?”

## Jesus Answers:

- **John 18:36-38:** “My kingdom is not of this world... You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

# Pilate's Second Question

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## Pilate Asks:

- **John 18:38** “What is Truth?”

## Jesus Answered Earlier:

- **John 14:6** “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (Jesus Christ Himself is Truth)
- **John 17:17** “Sanctify them by Your truth, Your Word is truth.” (The Bible is Truth)

## Mark 15:1-5

# Jesus Faces Pilate

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- Luke 23: 7 – When Pilate learned Jesus belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction...he sent Him to Herod.
- Mark 15: 5-6 - Luke 23:7 explains – the chronology – when Pilate heard Jesus was from Galilee, Herod’s jurisdiction, who was in Jerusalem at this time
- Herod knew of Jesus (Mark 6:14) and thought He was John the Baptist raised
- Why does Pilate send Jesus to Herod? Maybe to confirm Jesus’ innocence. This is effectively what Herod did by sending Him back to Pilate. This is God’s way of explaining that it was only the Jews who wanted to kill Jesus.

# Jesus Is Taken Before Herod

## Luke 23:7-12

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- **Luke 23.7** And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time. **23.8** And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him. **23.9** Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing. **23.10** And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him. **23.11** And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate. **23.12** And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.



Luke 23:7-12

# Herod Facts

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- There are two king Herod's mentioned in the Gospels
- The first is **Herod "the Great"** (a Roman) ruled as king of the Jews under Roman authority for thirty-three years, from 37–4 BC. Herod ordered the death of every child in Bethlehem below the age of two when Jesus was born in an attempt to kill the new King of Israel (Matthew 2:16), but Joseph, Mary and Jesus had already fled to Egypt.
- His son, **Herod Antipas**, ruled from 4 BC to 39 AD and is the Herod who beheaded John the Baptist and who Jesus meets here at His trial.
- **Herod Antipas & Jesus are amazingly contrasted**: Herod was cruel, prideful, paranoid, with great earthly power. However, **the apparently powerful "king", is a weak king**, prideful, a drunkard, and under the power of his wife and his servants. Now Herod is forgotten and shamed.
- History has proven who the true King was - Jesus Christ.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nETIzqZdcn4> – 2 Min Video – Herod - #1
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfeZnP1\\_zeg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfeZnP1_zeg) - 2 Min Video – Herod - #2

# Jesus or Barabbas?

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**“My Kingdom is not of this world.”** John 18:36

# The Most Important Question

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## Mark 15:12 – Pilate Ask's

**“What then do you want me to do with Him, whom you call the King of Jews?”**

**Everyone must answer this question at some point.**

**Your decision will determine your eternal destiny.**

## Barabbus is Released

<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
<p><b>Matthew 27.15</b> Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would. <b>27.16</b> And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas. <b>27.17</b> Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ? <b>27.18</b> For he knew that for envy they had delivered him. <b>27.19</b> When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him. <b>27.20</b> But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. <b>27.21</b> The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. <b>27.22</b> Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. <b>27.23</b> And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. <b>27.24</b> When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. <b>27.25</b> Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children. <b>27.26</b> Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.</p>	<p><b>Mark 15.6</b> Now at that feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired. <b>15.7</b> And there was one named Barabbas, which lay bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection. <b>15.8</b> And the multitude crying aloud began to desire him to do as he had ever done unto them. <b>15.9</b> But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews? <b>15.10</b> For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy. <b>15.11</b> But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them. <b>15.12</b> And Pilate answered and said again unto them, <u>What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews?</u> <b>15.13</b> And they cried out again, Crucify him. <b>15.14</b> Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him. <b>15.15</b> And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.</p>	<p><b>Luke 23.13</b> And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, <b>23.14</b> Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: <b>23.15</b> No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him. <b>23.16</b> I will therefore chastise him, and release him. <b>23.17</b> (For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.) <b>23.18</b> And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas: <b>23.19</b> (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.) <b>23.20</b> Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again to them.</p> <p><b>23.21</b> But they cried, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. <b>23.22</b> And he said unto them the third time, <u>Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him:</u> I will therefore chastise him, and let him go. <b>23.23</b> And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed. <b>23.24</b> And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required. <b>23.25</b> And he released unto them him that for sedition and murder was cast into prison, whom they had desired; but he delivered Jesus to their will.</p>	<p><b>John 18.38</b> Pilate saith unto him, <u>What is truth?</u> And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all. <b>18.39</b> But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews? <b>18.40</b> Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.</p>

## Mark 15:6-15

# Jesus or Barabbas?

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- Pilate said 3 times, Jesus was not guilty – for this reason Pilate was not viewed unfavourably by the early church.
- Pilate was afraid:
  - His wife had a dream and was afraid of Jesus - Matt. 27:19
  - The Jews were a threat to Pilate because of previous uprisings that had made him look bad to Caesar.
- Pilate thought the crowd would free Jesus, but in Mark 15:11 it says the Sanhedrin stirred up the crowd to choose Barabbas.
- Pilate said in v.15 “Wishing to satisfy the crowd...”
- What an amazing Passover Day. The people were there to obey God, give their sacrifices to God, remember the Exodus, yet at the same time they were there to crucify God! And just days earlier Jesus was being by the crowds hailed as the Messiah.

# Somebody Died For You

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- Barabbas lied in the dungeon where it is always dark, for the last night, knowing the next day would be his terrible execution on the cross.
- Judgement had been executed, and he was condemned by the court of the King as Guilty!
- He hears the great key clank in the lock and fly open the door, and knows it is his time to be dragged out, beaten, led to the fatal spot and nailed to a cross, where he would stay for days in agonizing pain.
- But when the door opened, the guard said **“Barabbas, have you heard the Good News?”**
- **“What Good News”** replied Barabbas.

# Somebody Died For You

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- **“Somebody died for you”** replied the guard.
- Then the guard took Barabbas out to see for himself the man on the cross who took his place.
- The guard said **“Do you see the center cross, it was made for you, and you being condemned for your crimes should have died on it.”**
- Barabbas like all of us, should have been on that cross, and we like Barabbas should respond in utter amazement and humble broken heart with:

# Somebody Died For You

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- **How can it be? What kind of love is this that someone would pay such a price for worthless me. Dying for me, taking my place!**
- Barabbas can't understand it, he didn't know why He did it. But He did, and he can't help but believe it. He really and truly died for me.
- **Christ died for you too.**
- **Jesus Christ took your place, you a condemned sinner, died in your place, became your Substitute, provided a pardon for your crimes, bore your sins, gave His life that you, a poor, lost and guilty sinner, might live, and live eternally.**
- **That is the Good News of the Gospel!**
- **Will you now receive Him as your Saviour?**