

D. Pilate appeals a second and a third time.

- i. The whole crowd kept shouting, “*Crucify him!*”
- ii. “Why? What crime has this man committed?”

E. All mankind was on trial that day.

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “The knowledge of good and evil seems to be the aim of all ethical reflection. The first task of Christian ethics is to invalidate this knowledge.” Why do you think he says that and what does it mean? [Bonhoeffer, Dietrich (2012-03-20). Ethics (p. 21).]
- How is it that the trial of Jesus represents the condemnation of mankind in our discerning good and evil (cf. Gen. 3:-5)?
- How does the Gospel teach us to respond in the face of false accusation, mean-spirited comments, or unjust treatment?
- Have you faced these things? Are you tempted to retaliate or play defense attorney? Why is faith essential to follow Jesus in this? (See 1 Peter 2:23)
- Can you find hints in the text that the cosmic trial of Psalm 2 is being played out in the trial of Jesus in Luke 22:66 – 23:25?
- What does this trial reveal about mankind's rejection of God and His Son? About who we are in Adam? About why we desperately need a Savior?
- What does this trial reveal about Christ and the kind of Savior He is? About how we can be released and why we need to be released?
- How are we like Barabbas in this story?

The Trial of Jesus and the Trial of Every Man

Jerry Cisar — April 6, 2014

Text: Luke 22:66 – 23:25

Introduction

A. Blaspheming the Lord (22:61-65)

B. Humanity is on trial here.

i. Genesis 3:4-5

ii. Acts 3:15

C. **A Cosmic Trial:** *a trial through which every human being must go, through which you must go, in order to recognize the truth of who you are and who Jesus is.*

I. Rulers Gather Together Against the Lord (22:66-71)

A. This gathering draws to mind another gathering – a cosmic trial in Psalm 2. (Psalm 2:1-3)

B. *“If you are the Messiah/Christ/anoointed, tell us.”*

i. *“But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God” (v69).*

ii. Jesus' declaration provokes their 2nd question.

a) To say that the son of man would be seated at the right hand of God is a claim to be a Divine Messiah.

➤ Psalm 110:1

➤ Psalm 2:6-7

C. "YOU, then, are the Son of God?"

- i. Jesus has led them to their question.
- ii. Jesus' response may be understood a couple of ways:
 - a) It is literally, "YOU say that I am."
 - b) It could be in effect, "say what you want." i.e. "If that is what you want to present to the Roman court... I won't argue with you."
 - c) Leon Morris suggests, "That is your word, not mine. I would not have put it like that, but since you have, I cannot deny it."

II. The Whole Assembly Conspire Against the Lord (23:1-7)

A. "The whole assembly rose up and led Him off to Pilate."

B. Pilate's job in Jerusalem is to squash all rebellion.

- i. This explains these specific charges against Jesus.
 - a) "Subverting (or misleading) our nation:"
 - Exodus 5:4
 - 1 Kings 18:16-18
 - b) "He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar"
 - c) "He claims to be Messiah, a King."
- ii. "You are the king of the Jews?"

C. "I find no basis for a charge against the man."

III. Kings and Rulers Take Counsel Against the Lord (23:8-12)

- A. Psalm 2:2 (ESV): "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and...His anointed One."
- B. **3 key voices in this scene:**
 - i. Herod plied him with many questions.
 - ii. "Jesus gave him no answer."
 - iii. The chief priests and scribes vehemently accuse Jesus.

C. The Gospel Teaches Us How to Live (1 Peter 2:19-23)

IV. Unified Rebellion Against the Lord (23:13-25)

- A. Everyone is here.
- B. **The charge:** You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion.
- C. **The verdict:** I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod... he has done nothing to deserve death.
 - i. I will punish him and then release him.
 - ii. But the whole crowd shouted, 'Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!'