



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 23 – Luke 23

People — Who is involved?

Pontius Pilate – Roman Governor
Herod Antipas – King of the Jews
Barabbas – a known rebel leader and murderer
Simon, a Cyrenian – chosen to carry Jesus' cross
Roman soldiers – crucified Jesus
Joseph of Arimathea – buried Jesus' body

Places — Where does it happen?

Jesus was taken to Pilate venue in Jerusalem
He was then taken to Herod's palace
He was sent back to Pilate's quarters
He was taken to Golgotha or Calvary for
crucifixion north of the city
He was buried in Joseph's tomb nearby

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

- Vs 1 – Pontius Pilate was 5th prefect or procurator of Samaria and Judea.
His major duties were to manage the Roman military, impose imperial taxation, decide civil and criminal cases in Judea, and supervise building programs such as roadways, aqueducts, etc.
- Vs 2 – The Jews leveled three charges against Jesus: subversion (“perverting the nation”); insurrection (“forbidding to pay taxes”); and treason (“saying that He Himself is Christ, a King”). These are civil (before the Romans). Of course, He was accused of religious blasphemy (before the Jews).
- Vs 5 – Notice after Pilate finds Him innocent, they accuse Jesus of inciting people to civil rebellion.
- Vs 7 – Herod Antipas was ruler of Galilee. He had married his half-brother Philip's wife, Herodias, and been condemned by John the Baptist for it. He subsequently beheaded John (Luke 3:19; 9:7-9).
- Vs 21 – Crucifixion was a Roman means of execution dating back to the Persians.
Jews usually executed by stoning. They were demanding humiliation and torture.
- Vs 26 – There were four types of crosses used by Romans: *crux simplex*, a post in form of an I; *crux decussate* in form of an X; *crux commissa* in form of a T; and *crux immissa* in form of a t.
Probably Simon carried only the petibulum (the crossbar).
- Vs 28 – Jesus had predicted the destruction of Jerusalem. They and their families would suffer.
- Vs 31 – Jesus represents the “green wood.” The “dry” represents the nation which rejected Christ.
- Vs 33 – Luke calls the place “Calvary.” The other gospels call it “Golgotha” (place of a skull).
- Vs 34 – The forgiveness from God would not come until they repented (see Acts 2:23; 3:13-18).
- Vs 38 – The superscription in total must have said: “This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews” (see Matt. 27:37; Mark 15:26; and John 19:19).
- Vs 43 – Paradise is a place of blessedness following death.

Perspectives — What may I learn from this chapter?

1. Jesus was unjustly convicted after being pronounced innocent by the ruling authority.
2. Jesus forgave even his most violent enemies.
3. Jesus died and was buried to fulfill His mission in coming to earth.