

Series: The Trials of Jesus
"The Fifth Trial" # 5
3-18-18 Sun PM
Luke 23:7-12

We are in part five of a six week series leading up to the crucifixion on Good Friday [preparation day] and the resurrection on Sunday morning.

The **six mock trials** or kangaroo court is divided into 3 religious trials and 3 civil trials. The trials started at 2:00 am on Good Friday till about 8:00 am.

The **religious trials** by the Jews consisted of his presence before Annas, Caiaphas, and the Sanhedrin. He was found guilty in these trials. They charged him with blasphemy but had to change to a political charge to get the death penalty before Pilate and Herod [note v.2].

The **civil trials** by the Romans consisted of his presence before Pilate, Herod Antipas, and Pilate again.

TT- Today we see Pilate passing the buck to Herod. The Herodian dynasty (6) lasted before the birth of Jesus until after his resurrection.

Herod Antipas was the son of Herod the Great, who massacred the infants of Bethlehem. It was Antipas who murdered John the Baptist for condemning his illicit relationship with his brother's wife. This was the Herod whom Jesus called "that fox" in Luke 13:32.

I. The Deference to Herod [vv. 6-7].

Again we see Pilate's moral weakness and weasel character. Pilate saw an opportunity to free himself from a political dilemma and to pass the buck when he heard Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction of Galilee and Perea.

He acted like the average politician who was more concerned about his position and power and not the people.

He found no fault but because of pressure he failed to render a final verdict.

I. The Deference to Herod [vv. 6-7].

II. The Desire of Herod [vv. 8-9].

Herod was glad to see Jesus face to face because he heard much about Him and wanted him to work a miracle for him.

Q- What if Jesus worked a miracle? Why did Jesus not work a miracle?

Remember, Herod beheaded John the Baptist for condemning Herod's illegal marriage to his brother Philip's wife, Herodias. He did not want to make the same mistake that he made with John.

v. 9: He questioned Jesus extensively but Jesus remained silent. Jesus was not defiant, but he knew their hearts were hardened and it was pointless to answer and play their game.

I. The Deference to Herod [vv. 6-7].

II. The Desire of Herod [vv. 8-9].

III. The Disrespect of Herod [vv. 10-12].

v. 10: The Jews rejected his non-verdict [v. 15] and began to accuse Jesus all the more.

v. 11: It was not Herod who was judging Jesus; it was Jesus who was judging Herod.

v. 12: The only thing accomplished by this maneuver was the mending of a broken friendship. Herod was grateful to Pilate for helping him to see Jesus and for honoring him by seeking his counsel.

Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate without issuing a verdict.

The fact that the two men met over a common threat (or enemy) helped them to put aside their differences and become friends again. Sin loves company. Sin has strange bed fellows.

Let me remind you of some observations about the Roman trials.

1. Jesus was not on trial they were. They thought they condemned Jesus but they were condemned.
2. The mock trials are not really about murder, but God's substitution for our sins.
3. From the human side Jesus was crucified because evil men decided to get Him out of the way.
4. From the divine side His crucifixion was "by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23), an appointment made from eternity (1 Peter 1:20; Rev. 13:8).

Everybody was making haste to kill Jesus. The religious leaders did not want to give the people time to hear and rise up.

God wanted Jesus offered up at the same time the Passover lambs were being killed in the temple (3-5 pm). Jesus had to be in the tomb before the Sabbath began at sundown or 6 pm so he would be in the grave three days.