

Series: The Trials of Jesus  
"The Fourth Trial" # 4  
3-11-18 Sun PM  
Luke 23:1-7

All of the six mock trials of Jesus were illegal. Six mock trials- three Jewish religious trials and three Roman civil trials.

Let's review the first 3 religious trials.

1. Jesus before Annas [John 18:12-14].
2. Jesus before Caiaphas [Matt. 26:57-68].
3. Jesus before the Council [Luke 22:63-71].

Here we see the first Roman civil trial before Pontius Pilate [governor of Judea] was in office from A.D. 26-36.

- He was not liked by the Jews. He took money from the temple treasury to build an aqueduct to supply water to Jerusalem. He was the man who had many Jews killed referenced in Luke 13:1-2.
- He believed Jesus to be innocent of the charge but handed him over to be crucified as not to arouse the Jews.
- He is great example of a compromiser who will do whatever it takes to achieve his own selfish goals. His handling of Jesus reveals that he was indecisive, weak, and compromising.

The trial before Pilate was around 6:30 am and centered on four key questions asked by Pilate which we will look at tonight.

Let me share some observations about the Roman trials before I get started.

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. God's predetermined plan was played out by human hands in the hatred and folly of 6 mock trials.
4. From the human side Jesus was crucified because evil men decided to get Him out of the way.

5. 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).

**TT-** What can we learn from Jesus before Pilate in the fifth trial?

### **I. The Charge [vv. 1-2, 5].**

**v. 1:** “The whole multitude” [all 70] except Joseph of Arimathea, dissented from the decision to condemn Christ [Luke 23:50-52].

They had what they wanted, a charge of blasphemy and treason so they took him to Pilate, the man who could put Jesus to death.

They had the motive but no power. They changed the charge into 3 false indictments.

**v. 2:** They made up a three-fold charge of a rebel and tax evader. According to John 18:28-29, Jesus asked the Jews what accusation they bring. They gave three.

1. Sedition.

2. Forbidding taxes to Caesar [20:25].

3. Subverting the nation by claiming to be a king. Jesus never claimed to be a political or military king. His kingdom was not of this world [John 18:36].

The Jewish leaders knew that their religious laws meant nothing to Pilate, so they emphasized the political aspects of their indictment against Jesus.

### **I. The Charge [vv. 1-2, 5].**

### **II. The Cross-Examination [v. 3].**

Pilate privately interrogated Jesus about His kingship because that was the crucial issue. Pilate asked him twice if he was king of the Jews.

See John 18:33-37

**Q-** Pilate had no understanding of Christ as a king of a kingdom not of this world. Do you see the darkness of the lost and the world system portrayed in this question?

### **III. The Conclusion [vs. 6-7].**

Pilate concluded that He was guilty of no crime. Three times during the trial, Pilate clearly affirmed the innocence of Jesus (Luke 23:4, 14, 22).

Dr. Luke reported three other witnesses besides Pilate who also said, "Not guilty!" King Herod (23:15), one of the malefactors (23:40-43), and a Roman centurion (23:47).

**vs. 6-7:** Again we see Pilates weakness and weasel character. He passed the buck to Herod.

In John 18:37 Jesus said he was sent into the world to bear witness of the truth and everyone that is of the truth hears his voice.

Pilate responded with a question, "What is truth?" Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by Jesus.

Truth is Jesus! Trust Him!