

Series: The Trials of Jesus  
"The Sixth Trial" # 6  
Luke 23:13-25  
3-25-18 Sun PM

Let's review the first 2 civil trials:

4. Jesus before Pilate [Luke 23:1-7]. Pilate handed Jesus off to Herod because of fear, intimidation, and straddling the fence. He saw no fault [threat] in Jesus.

5. Jesus before Herod [Luke 23:6-12]. It all appeared to be a game to Herod when Jesus worked no miracle. He sent Jesus back to Pilate.

Let me share again some observations about the Roman trials.

- Jesus was not on trial they were. They thought they condemned Jesus but they were condemned.
- The mock trials are not really about murder but God's substitution for our sins.
- God's predetermined plan was played out by human responsibility in the hatred and folly of 6 mock trials.

Jesus was not crucified because evil men decided to get Him out of the way. 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-** In the sixth and final trial Jesus is sent back to Pilate around 7:30-8:00 am.

### **I. The Conclusion [vv. 13-15].**

He met the Jewish leaders and announced for the second time that he did not find Jesus guilty of the charges they had made against Him. Pilate wanted all of them to hear that he thought Jesus was not guilty.

The fact that Herod backed Pilate's decision would not have impressed the Jews very much, because they despised Herod almost as much as they despised the Romans.

### **I. The Conclusion [vv. 13-15].**

### **II. The Custom [vv. 17-21].**

Since it was customary at Passover for the governor to release a prisoner, Pilate offered the Jews a compromise: he would chastise Jesus and let Him go.

He had another prisoner on hand, Barabbas, but Pilate was sure the Jews would not want him to be released.

*Bar* means “son” and *abbas* means “father. Some believe Barabbas was the son of a well-known Rabbi.

Barabbas was a robber, a murderer, and an insurrectionist. He may have been a leader of the Jewish Zealots who at that time was working for the overthrow of Rome.

Amazingly the people were willing to have an insurrectionist and a murderer in their midst rather than the Messiah. They would rather be with a well-known sinner than with the One who could forgive their sins.

Barabbas was guilty of what the religious leaders accused Jesus of.

**John 18:39-40**, 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? (40) Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.

**I. The Conclusion [vv. 13-15].**

**II. The Custom [vv. 17-21].**

**III. The Compromise [vv. 16, 22-25].**

Pilate thought he could appease the Jews by scourging Jesus. Note v. 18.

This scourging was done by a professional “lictor” using a whip with a wooden handle with several leather straps attached to it. Attached to the straps were pieces of metal and bones.

Pilate realized that a Jewish uprising was the last thing he wanted during Passover. So, he called for water and washed his hands before the crowd, affirming his innocence (Matt. 27:24-25).

He was a compromiser who was “willing to please the people” (Mark 15:15). Barabbas was released and Jesus was condemned to die on a Roman cross.

Pilate openly said that Jesus was innocent, yet he permitted Him to be beaten and condemned Him to die.

He carefully questioned Jesus and even trembled at His answers, but the truth of the Word did not make a difference in his decisions.

He wanted to be popular not right; he was more concerned about reputation than he was character. Pilate pleased the Jews for political reasons to save himself from Rome. Someone said, “If Herod had silenced the voice of God, then Pilate smothered the voice of God. He had his opportunity and wasted it.”

**Con:** Jesus was our substitute. It could be that Barabbas pictures all of us who were guilty before God but delivered.

Imagine Jesus died on the very cross intended for Barabbas, amazing! Christ died on the cross prepared for you and me!

**Q-** How would you have felt if you were Barabbas? It is the way you feel today knowing Christ died in your place!