



The Gospel of Luke



Week 26 **LEADER** Discussion Questions Week of 4/2/23

Text: Luke 22:63-23:25

Icebreaker: Have you ever been falsely accused of something or somehow misrepresented by others? What happened and how did you respond?

1. Once you've read the passage, what stands out to you most? Why?

2. As you read the end of chapter 22 and the first five verses of 23, what's deceiving about the accusations being made against Jesus?

First, Jesus is being accused of NOT being who he said he was as he is mocked and questioned at the end of chapter 22. In Luke 23:1-5, Jesus is accused of leading the nation astray, forbidding the payment of Roman taxes, and calling himself a political king. In all, he is not being accepted for who he is and is being misrepresented by the Jewish leaders in front of Pilate.

Application: What do people who don't believe in Jesus say about him today? Do you hear people make claims about him that aren't true? If so, what are they?

3. From what Luke tells us, how would you describe Pilate and Herod's responses to Jesus? Who do you think Pilate and Herod think Jesus is?

Pilate finds Jesus innocent but is not bold enough to release him. Herod also finds Jesus innocent, but is intrigued by Jesus's reputation and would like to see something impressive from Jesus. Herod, while perhaps more enthusiastic than Pilate, is no more convinced that Jesus is anything but a spectacle. Both clearly do not accept that Jesus is the Son of God even though they may find him innocent of the charges.

Application: Do you know someone who has a positive view of Jesus but doesn't believe he is the Son of God (22:70)? What have you done or could you do to help them understand who Jesus really is?

4. Verses 18-25 of chapter 23 describe the release of Barabbas and the delivering of Jesus "over to their will." How would you compare Jesus and Barabbas?

We see a true criminal—an insurrectionist and murderer—in Barabbas, while Jesus is truly innocent and only accused of insurrection. "Barabbas" means "son of the father," so we have two figures—one, a "son of the father" and the other, the "Son of the Father." A textual variant in Matthew's Gospel even includes that the criminal's name was also Jesus! (see Matt 27:16-17 in the NIV).

Application: What's your reaction when you read about this "exchange" of Jesus for Barabbas? Does this help you understand the gospel? If so, in what way?

This may be the most vivid depiction of the substitution of Jesus for sinners like us, which is the heart of the gospel message.

5. Read 1 Peter 2:21-24. What do you see in these verses that match what Jesus experienced before the religious leaders, Pilate, Herod, and the people?

This should be self-explanatory as Peter describes Jesus's suffering and the significance of it for Christians who face suffering.

Application: Is there some form of suffering in your life that these verses can help you face? Take time to pray for each other as a group.