

BARABBAS RELEASED (Matthew 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:39,40)

The Lord again is tried before Pilate, who wishes to release Him, but over-persuaded by the Jews, delivers Him to be crucified.

1. Pilate *called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people*. What was the result of his examination of Christ? (Luke 23:14)\_\_\_\_\_

Before Jesus was scourged Pilate attempted to release Jesus in accordance with a custom belonging to that feast. We know it failed, and a condemned robber called Barabbas was preferred by the people.

2. What were Barabbas' crimes? (Luke 23:19)\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who sent a message to Pilate, to *have nothing to do with that just man*? (Matthew 27:19)\_\_\_\_\_

After the clamor which resulted in the release of Barabbas had ceased, the terrible cry, "Crucify Him!" was raised among the fickle crowd. Pilate was determined to carry out his threat of scourging the Innocent. —That might satisfy them, perhaps excite their pity. Something whispered to him that he would be wise if he refrained from staining his life with the blood of that strange quiet Prisoner.

4. What did Pilate say when he took water and washed his hands? (Matthew 27:24) \_\_\_\_\_

Then answered all the people, His blood be on us, and on our children.

THIRD JEWISH TRIAL (Matthew 27:12; Luke 22:66-71; Mark 5:1)

The meeting of the Sanhedrin at night was illegal, so as soon as the hour arrived when a legal trial could be held, they met to pass official sentence on Jesus.

1. In this trial, from Luke 22:66-71 write down the words of Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus said, "*Ye say that I am.*" This is a Hebrew form of affirmation (or verification). It not only satisfied the Sanhedrin that Jesus had blasphemed, but it can be taken by us as a clear claim by our Lord of His deity (that He is God).

2. Next, in Matthew 27:2, what did they do with Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST ROMAN TRIAL (Matthew 27:2,11-14; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28-38)

1. The only words Jesus spoke that was recorded in all four gospels during this trial was. \_\_\_\_\_

Having being condemned by the Jews, Jesus now stood before Pilate. To enter into the hall of judgment would have defiled the Sanhedrin and those with them. So Pilate went out to them. They would not cross a certain threshold but they would murder the Son of God. The Jews were not authorized by Roman law to execute any person. Any sen-

tence of death which they would pass upon their prisoners had to be confirmed by the Roman governor whose soldiers would carry out the execution.

2. (a) Were these accusations against Jesus different or the same, before Pilate, as they were in the Jewish trial? (Luke 23:2) \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) In what way? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. In Luke 23:4, what was Pilate's judgment of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was the word that caused Pilate to send Jesus before Herod? (Luke 23:6) \_\_\_\_\_

#### SECOND ROMAN TRIAL (Luke 23:6-12)

Because Herod had jurisdiction over Galilee, Pilate sent Jesus before Herod. It happened that Herod was in Jerusalem at that time because there was a great crowd gathered at the time of the Passover Feast. His usual residence was at Capernaum.

1. Why was Herod exceedingly glad to see Jesus? (Luke 23:8) \_\_\_\_\_

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This was Herod Antipas, the slayer of John the Baptist. He was at that time living in open incest with that princess Herodias concerning whom the Baptist had administered the public rebuke which had led to his arrest and subsequent execution. Jesus was a curiosity to Herod Antipas. ---Jesus was standing before John's murderer.

2. When Herod questioned Jesus, what did Jesus answer? (Luke 23:9) \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Herod and his men of war ridicule Jesus? (Luke 23:11) \_\_\_\_\_

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Herod treated Jesus, not as a criminal, but as a mischievous religious Enthusiast, worthy only of contempt and scorn. The "gorgeous robe," more accurately, "bright raiment," was a white holiday cloak such as Jewish kings and Roman nobles wore on great occasions. It was this Herod of whom the Lord had spoken so recently with for him a rare bitterness, *Go tell that fox* (literally, she-fox), Herod (Luke 13:32). The word, "she-fox" is perhaps the bitterest and most contemptuous name ever given by the Master to any of the sons of men. It is possible it might have been intended for Herodias, the influence of that wicked princess being at that time all-powerful at court.

4. Where did they send Jesus next? (Luke 23:11) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Something very unusual happened on that same day between Pilate and Herod. What was it? (Luke 23:12) \_\_\_\_\_

This mutual contact with Christ by Herod and Pilate strangely enough made them friends again, for up until that time they were enemies.

Worldly men apparently irreconcilable (incompatible) meet together in friendship when opportunity offers itself for wounding Christ!