

The Real Verdict at Jesus' Trials Mark 15:1-15

In today's message, we learn about three civil trials of Jesus

- 1st - Before Pilate who is adamantly anti-Semitic. Mark 15:1-5; John 18:33-37; Luke 13:1-2
- 2nd - Before Herod, since Jesus was a Galilean. Luke 23:6-12
- 3rd - Again before Pilate for final verdict. Mark 15:6-15

Two trials of Jesus: Mark 8:32; 10:33-34 (see *Digging Deeper on the back*)

- Religious trial of Jesus reveals the heart of the religious leaders.
- Civil trial of Jesus reveals the heart of the governing leaders and crowd.

Who is really on trial?

Religious Leaders

People who know the Bible, God's truth, and yet resist and rebel against it. They are driven by "envy" and fear losing their position, power and way of life. They know what the Bible says about the Messiah (see *Digging Deeper*) but refused to acknowledge the biblical truth about Jesus. They resist His authority.

- **How to pray and respond:** Pray for God's intervention and discipline to turn their hearts to the truth they know. Be available to respond in love and kindness. (Romans 2:4)
- 2 Chronicles 33:10-13 ...vs. 12: *"When he (King Manasseh) was in distress, he entreated the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers..."*

The Crowd

People who seek their own pleasure, happiness, and personal comfort. They follow Jesus when He seems to give them what they want. But if He challenges them to follow even when it involves pain and suffering, or if it seems God is not taking care of them as they want, they may turn against Him. Their faith is fickle based on how God provides for them.

- **How to pray and respond:** Pray for an open teachable heart to the deceit of sin. Ask God to reveal the devastating outcome of sin. Encourage and support to faithfulness in tough times through a healthy loving relationship and avoid a judgmental attitude. Listen to their concerns.
- Hebrews 3:12-13 ... *"But encourage (come alongside) one another day after day, ... so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin..."*
- **"deceit"** = to give a false impression, by desiring more money (Matthew 13:22); pursuing immorality (Ephesians 4:22); being persuaded by the culture of this world (Colossians 2:8)

Pilate

People that are indifferent to Jesus and just want to pursue their jobs, family and way of life. They are apathetic, even agnostic, to the true claims of Jesus and do not want to be bothered any more about Him.

- **How to pray and respond:** Pray to remove the blindness so they see Jesus as He stands before them. Reveal the glory, reality and relevance of how Jesus is working in your life by telling your story. Reflect biblical truth.
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 *"...in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*

Barabbas

People who know they are guilty and deserve death but need a Savior to die in their place.

- Galatians 3:13
- **How to pray and respond:** Pray for true repentance and faith in Jesus who suffered, died and rose again for us all. Always be ready to share the gospel of Jesus. And be ready to express forgiveness and offer love and acceptance regardless of past sins. (Galatians 3:13; Acts 26:20; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; 2:3-6)

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

- Of the four people reflected in this passage, who do you know that is similar to them that you can pray for? How can you help them respond to Jesus in a better way?
- Do you identify with any of these people at certain times? What should you pray and do based on the verses listed on the front of the outline under each of the four people?

Any curious student of the Bible could have discovered the truth about Jesus from these Old Testament predictions of the Messiah. Why did the religious leaders not respond in faith to Jesus with so much truth presented to them?

- Isaiah 61:1-2 Jesus said this passage was about Him.
- Isaiah 7:14 He was to be born from a virgin
- Isaiah 52, 53 He would suffer and die as Messiah.
- Zechariah 9:9 He would humbly ride a donkey, not a white horse in victory.
- Zechariah 11:12-13 His betrayal was for 30 pieces of silver
- Micah 5:2 He would be born in Bethlehem

The 6 Trials of Jesus:

	Judge	Texts	Decision	Time AM	Place	Notes
3 Religious trials by Jewish religious leaders	Annas	Mt 26:57-58; Mk 14:53-54; Luke 22:54-55; Jn 18:12-23	Guilty	2:00-2:30	House of High Priest	Jesus answers freely
	Caiaphas	Mt 26:59-75; Mk 14:55-65; Lk 22:56-65; Jn 18:24	Guilty	2:30-5:00	House of High Priest	Peter's three denials. One hour between second and third denial: Lk 22:59 Jesus would not answer
	Sanhedrin	Mt 27:1, Mk 15:1; Lk 22:66-71	Guilty	6:00	Court of Sanhedrin	In the early morning
3 Civil trials by Roman government authorities	Pilate	Matt 27:2-14; Mk 15:2-5; Lk 23:1-6; Jn 18:28-38	Innocent	6:30	Praetorium	Death of Judas
	Herod	Lk 23:7-12	Innocent	7:00	Jerusalem	
	Pilate	Matt 27:15-26; Mk 15:6-15; Lk 23:13-25; Jn 18:39-19:16	Innocent	7:30-8:00	Praetorium	

In Response:

COMMUNION uses the symbols of matzah bread for Jesus' body and the cup of wine for His blood. It is for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

GIVING is an act of worship we do purposefully and cheerfully to honor God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus' name. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or calvarylife.org/give

PRAYER POINTS are at the front of the Worship Center with people available to pray with you at the end of today's service. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him and trust Him for salvation. You can also submit requests using The Card or at calvarylife.org/card