



Pharisees & The Crowd Agree: Kill Jesus

17th Confirmation Class Handout

Luke 22 & 23 (The Message): Still at the High Priest's house during the night of Jesus' arrest:

63 The men in charge of Jesus began poking fun at him, slapping him around. 64 They put a blindfold on him and taunted, "Who hit you that time?" 65 They were having a grand time with him. 66 When it was morning, the religious leaders of the people and the high priests and scholars all got together and brought him before their High Council. 67 They said, "Are you the Messiah?" 68 Jesus replied, "If I asked what you meant by your question, you wouldn't answer me. 69 So here's what I have to say: From here on the Son of Man takes his place at God's right hand, the place of power."

70 They all said, "So you admit your claim to be the Son of God?"

"You're the ones who keep saying it," Jesus replied.

71 But they had made up their minds, "Why do we need any more evidence? We've all heard him as good as say it himself."

Luke 23 Jesus' "official" trial

1 Then they (the Jewish leaders) all took Jesus to Pilate 2 and began to bring up charges against him. They said, "We found this man undermining our law and order, forbidding taxes to be paid to Caesar, setting himself up as Messiah-King." 3 Pilate asked him, "Is this true that you're 'King of the Jews?'"

"Those are your words, not mine," Jesus said back to Pilate.

4 Pilate told the high priests and the accompanying crowd, "I find nothing wrong here. He seems harmless enough to me."

5 But they were vehement. "He's stirring up unrest among the people with his teaching, disturbing the peace everywhere, starting in Galilee and now all through Judea. He's a dangerous man, endangering the peace."

6 When Pilate heard that, he asked, "So, he's a Galilean?" 7 Realizing that he properly came under Herod's jurisdiction, he passed the buck to Herod, who just happened to be in Jerusalem for a few days to celebrate the Festival of Unleavened Bread (the Passover). 8 Herod was delighted when Jesus showed up. He had wanted for a long time to see him, he'd heard so much about him. He hoped to see Jesus do something spectacular. 9 He peppered him with questions. But Jesus didn't answer - not one word. 10 The high priests and religion scholars were right there, saying their piece, strident and shrill in their accusations. 11 Mightily offended, Herod turned on Jesus. His soldiers joined in, taunting and jeering. Then they dressed him up in an elaborate king costume and sent him back to Pilate. 12 That day Herod and Pilate became political allies. Always before they had kept their distance.

13 Then Pilate called in the high priests, rulers, and the others 14 and said, "You brought this man to me as a disturber of the peace. I examined him in front of all of you and found there was nothing to your charge. 15 And neither did Herod, for he has sent him back here with a clean bill of health. It's clear that he's done nothing wrong, let alone anything deserving death. 16 I'm going to warn him to watch his step and let him go." 18 At that, the crowd went wild: "Kill him! Give us Barabbas instead!" 19 (Barabbas had been thrown in prison for starting a riot in the city and for murder - releasing one prisoner during the Festive of Unleavened Bread was a yearly tradition.) 20 Pilate still wanted to let Jesus go, and so spoke out again. 21 But they kept shouting back, "Crucify! Crucify him!" 22 He tried a third time. "But for what crime? I've found nothing in him deserving death. I'm going to warn him to watch his step and let him go." 23 But they kept at it, a shouting mob, demanding that he be crucified. And finally they shouted him down. 24 Pilate caved in and gave them what they wanted. 25 He released the man thrown in prison for rioting and murder, and gave them Jesus to do whatever they wanted.

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Pay attention to your friends, small groups in school, in extra-curricular activities, etc to see how it is that they make decisions and what it is that brings them together - or if they're really "together" at all.