

# **The Passion of the Christ**

## Lesson 1

Luke 22:1-5, 23:1-25

March 28, 2021

## **God on Trial**

### **Introduction**

Have you ever sat on a jury? You listen to both sides of the argument, weigh the evidence presented, and discuss the trial with the other jurors. Ultimately, you are forced to decide the defendant's guilt. But what if you were wrong?

What about that all-important first impression? Have you ever passed judgment on someone based on that first poor impression? You have decided you don't like something about them but can't quite put a finger on it. Or maybe everything about them rubs you the wrong way. But what if your impression was wrong?

Jesus was put on trial. But His guilt was decided before evidence was heard, before He had a chance to plead His case, and before hearing both sides of the argument. In fact, Jesus' guilt was decided before He was born. When Jesus was put on trial, God was the one facing judgment. But what if they were wrong?

***Memory verse: "So Pilate asked Jesus, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'You have said so,' Jesus replied."—Luke 23:3***

Pray and read Luke 22:1-5, 23:1-25. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

## **What do the passages say?**

1. Why were the chief priests and teachers of the law looking for a way to get rid of Jesus? (Luke 22:2)
2. Who entered Judas? What did Judas do? (Luke 22:3-4)
3. Of what did the assembly accuse Jesus? (Luke 23:2)
4. What did Pilate ask Jesus? What was Jesus response? (Luke 23:3)
5. What does Pilate do with Jesus? (Luke 23:4, 7)
6. Why was Herod please to see Jesus? What did Herod and those around him do to Jesus? (Luke 23:8-12)
7. What is Pilate's response to Jesus' return? (Luke 23:13-16, 22, 25-26)
8. How did the whole crowd respond to Pilate's declaration? (Luke 23:18, 21, 23)

## What do the passages mean?

1. With Satan's influence, Judas betrayed Jesus (Luke 22:3-4). Satan uses the veneer of religion to keep people from really knowing God by pulling them into the trap of "doing" religion. How can we guard ourselves against Satan using our religion against us? (Luke 9:23; Ephesians 6:10-11; Colossians 3:5; James 1:22, 4:7)
2. When Herod finally came face to face with Jesus, Jesus wouldn't answer his questions. Herod was angry, and he and his men mocked Him and did nothing to save Him (Luke 23:10-11). What can we learn from Herod? (Luke 6:45, 49; Galatians 6:7; James 4:4)
3. Pilate was so concerned about his image as a politician. When he was faced with deciding whether Jesus lived or died, he chose the way that brought him the most advantage in his future political life over what was right. What can we learn from Pilate? (Romans 12:9, 21; Galatians 1:10; 1 Timothy 1:19; 1 John 2:15-16)



2. Are you a people pleaser or a God pleaser? What is one step you can take to become a God pleaser?

3. If you were in the crowds, would you ignore Jesus? Reject Jesus? Call for His destruction? Accept Him? Write a prayer to Jesus, confessing your sins and thanking Him for dying on your behalf.