

# Luke 23 - Is Jesus A King?

Luk 23:1-3 NIV Then the whole group got up and led Jesus off to Pilate. 2 They began to bring charges against Jesus. They said, "We have found this man misleading our people. He is against paying taxes to Caesar. And ***he claims to be Christ, a king.***" 3 So Pilate asked Jesus, "***Are you the king of the Jews?***" "***Yes. It is just as you say.***" Jesus replied.

- The elders and teachers of the law - "he claims to be a king"
- Pilate asked - "Are you a king?"
- "Yes. ***It is just as you say.***" Jesus replied.

## The Question Isn't "Is He King of the Jews" It is "How Will I Respond to That?"

- vs 2 - The elders and teachers of the law **accused him**
- vs 10 - The elders and teachers of the law **vehemently accused Him**
- vs 23 - The elders and teachers of the law **insistently demanded that He be crucified**
- vs 11 & vs 36 - The Soldiers **ridiculed and mocked Him**
- vs 35 - The rulers **sneered at Him**
- vs 39 - The thief on the cross **hurled insults at Him**

## How Did Pilate Respond? - He was a People Pleaser

Luk 23:20-25 **Wanting to release Jesus**, Pilate appealed to them again. (21) But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" (22) **For the third time he spoke to them:** "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him." (23) But with loud shouts **they insistently demanded** that he be crucified, **and their shouts prevailed.** (24) **So Pilate decided to grant their demand.** (25) He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, **and surrendered Jesus to their will.**

- He WANTED to release Jesus
- He gave into peer pressure - He was unable to stand alone
- How is that like us?
  - **Rather than surrender OUR WILL to Jesus, We surrender Jesus to OUR will**

## How Did Herod Respond? - He was a Thrill Seeker

Luk 23:8-12 When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what **he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort.** (9) He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. (10) The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. (11) **Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him.** Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. (12) **That day Herod and Pilate became friends--before this they had been enemies.**

- He hoped to see Him perform a miracle - but had no plans to surrender to him
- He and the soldiers ridiculed and mocked Him as King
- How is Herod like us?
  - **We want to see what Jesus can do, but we won't do what Jesus wants**

## The Stubborn Crowd - chose a murderer rather than the King

(13) Pilate ... found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: (15) No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him. (16) I will therefore chastise him, and release him. (17) (For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.) (18) And they cried out all at once, saying, **Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas**: (19) (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.) (20) Pilate therefore, willing to release Jesus, spake again to them. (21) But they cried, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. (22) And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let him go. (23) And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed. (24) And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required. (25) And he released unto them him that for sedition and murder was cast into prison, whom they had desired; but ***he delivered Jesus to their will.***

- When we reject Jesus as our King - we always choose a BAD SUBSTITUTE
- When we reject Jesus as King - OUR WILL becomes King

## Responding to His Kingship is Yielding to His Will

Mat 6:10 ESV Your kingdom come, ***your will be done***, on earth as it is in heaven.

### **We plot in vain to resist Him**

- Psa 2:1-12 ESV Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, ***against the LORD and against his Anointed***, saying, 3 "Let us ***burst their bonds*** apart and cast away their cords from us."

### **The Father has set Jesus up as King - It's a done deal**

- 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. 5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, 6 "***As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.***" 7 I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and ***I will make the nations your heritage***, and the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

### **A call to respond**

- 10 Now therefore, O kings, ***be wise; be warned***, O rulers of the earth. 11 ***Serve*** the LORD with fear, and ***rejoice*** with trembling. 12 ***Kiss*** the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. ***Blessed are all who take refuge in him.***

# What Kind of a King is He?

## One who weeps over His people (“O Jerusalem Jerusalem”)

(26) And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus. (27) And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. (28) But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, **weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.** (29) For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. (30) Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. (31) For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?

## One Who Extends Forgiveness to His Executioners

(32) And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death. (33) And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. (34) Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

## One Who Did Not Save Himself, Because He Wants to Save Us

(35) And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; **let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God.** (36) And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, (37) And saying, ***If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself.*** (38) And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

## One Who Grants Paradise to a Thief

(39) And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, **If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.** (40) But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? (41) And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. (42) And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. (43) And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, **To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.**

## One Who Gives Us Access to the Presence and Throne of God

(44) And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. (45) And the sun was darkened, and **the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.** (46) And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, **Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.** (47) Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, **Certainly this was a righteous man.**

- More than a righteous man - He is the king of kings