

Miscarriage of Justice

Luke 23:1-25

April 10, 2022

Main Idea: The innocent one was delivered up, and the guilty were set free.

Luke 23:1-25

Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king." And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no guilt in this man." But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place." When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him.

Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other. Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore punish and release him." But they all cried out together, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas" — a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him." But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the

man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

I. Jesus was proclaimed guilty though proven innocent. (vv. 1-16)

“Sinful human beings simply cannot be neutral toward a holy God. We are rebels against him and he is a threat to our way of life. He stands between us and our passionate commitment to live our lives in exactly the way that we wish. And so when God came in human flesh, the only options open to humanity were to worship him as Lord or kill him as an enemy.” – Mike McKinley

Luke 23:5

But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”

1 Peter 2:22

He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

Hebrews 7:25

“holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners...”

2 Corinthians 5:21

“Him who knew no sin...”

II. Pilate succumbed to the crowd and condemned the innocent (vv. 18-25)

Luke 23:18

But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”

Luke 23:23-25

But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

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Who delivered up Jesus to die?

Acts 3:13

The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.

Romans 4:24-25

It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

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2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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