

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

## "THE GREAT EXCHANGE" | LUKE 23:1-25 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

### WARM-UP QUESTION:

*If you could switch places with any person for a day, who would it be?*

### **"Pilate: Just Leave Me" (Luke 23: 1-5)**

Pilate doesn't want to deal with Jesus and tries different ways to avoid making a decision. **What are ways people today avoid Jesus? Why do people avoid answering questions about faith?**

### **"Herod: Just Please Me" (Luke 23: 6-12)**

Herod was only interested in Jesus because he wanted to see a miracle. He wasn't interested in determining if Jesus was the Son of God. **How are people today sometimes like Herod in asking Jesus for a sign or miracle? What are reasons why Jesus doesn't give them what they ask for?**

### **"Barabbas: Just Free Me" (Luke 22: 13-25)**

Pilate and the crowd eventually come to the decision to execute Jesus so they can be free of Him and do what they want. **How are people today similar, wanting to be free of God? How is that different than the freedom found in Jesus?**

### REFLECTION QUESTION:

In the trials of Jesus, we see common responses people have with Jesus of fearful avoidance, shallow curiosity, and prideful independence. All of these are ways people reject Jesus and seek freedom in the wrong places. Jesus goes along with all the injustice to obey God and save the world. **What are ways you have rejected Jesus as Lord and Savior lately? How does it affect you knowing Jesus still loves you and saves you? Pray that God would give you the ability to respond to Jesus in worship and obedience.**

## The Great Exchange

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-8 AP: Pantry. Ladies Worship. CK Summer. VBS. Fellowship Nt. Harvest. Video.
- B. Slide9 Baby Dedication (2nd): Bella Alexandria Larson. Parents: Mary & Travis.  
New to the church.
- C. Prayer: *If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

### II. Slide10 Intro: The Great Exchange

- A. The Sanhedrin brings Jesus before Pilate, the Roman governor of Judaea, because *only imperial authorities could impose the death sentence.*
- B. A *show trial* is a public trial in which the guilt or innocence of the defendant **has already been determined**. [Kangaroo Court - unofficial trial, last week]
  - 1. On *March 4 2022*, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law a bill introducing prison sentences of up to 15 years for those who publish "*knowingly false information*" about the Russian armed forces and their operations. (key) What is considered "*false information*" is decided by the Russian government. As of Dec. 2022, more than **4,000 people** were prosecuted under "*fake news*" laws in connection with the War in Ukraine.
- C. After His arrest, Jesus was *paraded around to 6 illegal or dishonest trials* in less than 6 hours ... *Justice? More like a Show Trial.*
- D. Slide11 The *1st 3 trials* were *religious in nature* and held by the **Jews** (last week), *while* the *last 3 trials* were *civil in nature* and held by the **Romans**.
  - 1. The 1st trial took place at the home of **Annas** around **2 am**.  
The 2nd trial was held in the home of **Caiaphas** at **3 am**.  
The 3rd trial was a formal hearing before the **Sanhedrin** at **6 am**.  
The 4th trial was before **Pilate** around **6:30 am**.  
The 5th trial *quickly occurred* before **Herod**.  
The 6th trial went back to **Pilate** and was done in just a few minutes.

E. Slide12 Outline: 3 interactions w/Jesus. **Pilate, Just Leave Me. Herod, Just Please Me. Barabbas, Just Free Me.** [sounds like *many individuals* relationship w/Jesus]

### III. Slide13a **PILATE, JUST LEAVE ME (1-5) neutrality is impossible READ**

A. Rome didn't care about *religious blasphemy*, so the religious leaders leave it out of the top 3 reasons when they come before Pilate.

B. (5) In Roman law, you could be tried **in the place** where the crime took place, **or in the province** you were from. (Herod from Galilee)

1. Pilate is trying to figure out, **how do I get this out of my inbox?** ... I know ... I'll forward it to **Herod**.

C. How did *compromise* work out for Pilate? Extra biblical history tells us that **he lost it all** very soon after this. He was recalled back to Rome and was disgraced. Then suddenly he falls off the pages of history.

D. Slide13b **Lesson:** The issue here seems to be *one's desire to try to avoid making a decision with Jesus*.

1. Some people think, *I just haven't made a decision about Jesus yet*. Which they don't realize ... **is a decision**.

2. Slide14 Jn.3:18 *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God*. [are U still *dodging a decision* to follow Him?]

### IV. Slide15 **HEROD, JUST PLEASE ME (6-12)curiosity is ineffectualineffective READ**

A. (8) **Out of the Herodian Dynasty** this Herod was the basest of them all. He was cowardly, cruel, and sensual. [same Herod that beheaded *John the Bap*, Antipas]

1. Herod the Great (**founder**). **2nd gen** 3 sons: Antipas, Philip, Archeleus. **3rd gen** Agrippa 1&2 (Acts).

2. Herod Antipas *tried to make the Son of God into a court entertainer*.

3. He represents someone *who doesn't take Jesus seriously*.

a) We can connect the text from Is.53:3 *he esteemed Him not*.

4. **Herod** had already silenced **the Voice** (John the Baptist), no wonder he could not hear **the Word** (Jesus).

B. (9) **But He made no answer** - Jesus is not answering anymore. *But by not saying anything, He is saying something*.

1. He's surrendering Himself to the Fathers will *for our salvation*.

2. **Slide16a** Is.53:7 *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth*.

a) The **silent one** is going to *the cross* for us.

3. Ps: **Some** prophecies, like this one, Jesus could have made sure that he fulfilled (staying silent). **Others** he couldn't have as just a man, (*destroy this temple and in 3 days I will raise it up ... but he was speaking of the temple of his body*. Jn.2:19,21).

C. (12) Friendship is born with a *commonality*. Here, **Herod** and **Pilate** both joined the *we hate Jesus club*.

D. **Slide16b Lesson:** The issue here seems to be *ones desire for Jesus to meet your needs*

1. In Herod's case *he sought entertainment from Him*. What do you seek from Him?

V. **Slide17 BARABBAS, JUST FREE ME (13-25)** *escape is unacceptable* **READ**

A. **Slide18a** (15) **Back to Pilate** - this is very much like Jesus, *you try to push him out of your life and He keeps coming back*. Why? Because you can't decide to *do nothing*.

1. And that's where Pilate's at, at this point. He, *like everyone else*, **must choose this day whom he will serve**. He just claimed to be *the Son of man, Son of God, the Messiah* ... you have to do something with that. You can't just leave Him alone!

B. No guilt in Him - *neither did Herod. The spotless man of God is a perfectly innocent man.*

C. (16) Pilate offers a middle-ground solution. *I'll punish him and release Him.*

1. History tells us Caesar had already warned Pilate about being bloodthirsty, so he's also trying to keep himself in check, to keep his job.
2. And Pilate is more concerned with convenience than conscience.
  - a) His epitaph, could read, "*He tried to please the crowd.*"

D. (23,24) And their voices prevailed. They say, "*character and opportunity collide to show your true colors.*" Seems true here with *Mr. Pilate.*

1. John Stott, talking about the motives of those that killed Jesus said, *First, Judas handed him over out of greed. Next, the priest handed him over out of envy. Now Pilate hands Him over out of cowardice.*

E. Slide18b Remember 2 plans converge here at Golgotha. We have to pick a plan to follow.

1. Acts 4:27,28 *for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.*
2. Herod and Pilate are responsible for their own evil, but remarkably, they are carrying out the saving purposes of God.
3. Isaiah said, *yet it was the will of the Lord to crush Him.* Is.53:10
  - a) I ask you today, will you be a beneficiary of the plan by which God brought Jesus to the cross, or remain an accomplice in the plan in which Satan brought Him there.

F. Slide18c (25) Listen to the Gospel in the last verse. *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.*

1. The Jews can't have Him killed because of blasphemy. Can't get Him on Rome's charges of insurrection. So they resort to 1 man being set free.

2. **Interesting ...** Barabbas was truly guilty of inciting people against Rome (insurrection) - *the very thing that Jesus was falsely accused of doing.*

3. **And how is he set free?** It's an **Exchange!** *This is the Great Exchange!*

G. **Barabbas** = *son of/father*. The **righteous** *Son of the Father* died, so the **unrighteous** *son of the father* could be **set free**.

1. **Jesus** died to set ... *the murderer free, the adulterer free, the liar free.*

2. **If I** was standing in the crowd, I would have had to ask Pilate *Give me Barabbas*, not for the same reason as the crowd, ... **but** because *I needed a Savior to die for my sins.*

a) **Slide18d** Because my **sinless Savior** died, my **sinful soul** is **counted free**.

For **God the Just** is *satisfied*, to *look on Him*, and pardon me.

H. Barabbas *deserved* to die, **but** was **set free** because **Jesus** took his place.

1. **Was he set free to return to his old ways?** (we're not sure)

2. **But note**, he was **free** from **prison**, **but wasn't free** from *his personal prison* (his *bondage to sin*). [he was **set free**, **but not free indeed**]

a) **Slide18e** Jn.8:36 *If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

I. **Slide19a Lesson:** the issue here seems to be one's desire to be **free**, **yet** not understanding *who it is* who makes you **free**. (some think, if I was only **free** of my boss, my spouse, my addiction)

1. *"I'll take what you have to offer Jesus, but don't expect me to follow you!"*

2. You might have been **freed** from some **bondage**, **but** have you experience being **free indeed, freed completely?** *if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed*

J. **Slide19b Recap our 3 Lessons:**

1. **Neutrality is Impossible.** You must decide for Jesus.

2. **Curiosity is Ineffectual.** You must not just be **curious** **but** have a **conscience**

3. **Escape is Unacceptable.** You must not only seek to be free, **but** to be **free in Christ**.

4. Slide19c Job.22:21 (Eliphaz) *Now **acquaint** yourself with **Him**, and be at **peace**; **Thereby good** will come to you.*

K. Keywords: Free, Pilate, Herod.