

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#95 – “Who Is Jesus” – Luke 23:1-12

I. Introduction

A. Make believe in an age of unbelief.

1. The story of Jesus – a “made up” story.
2. Luke asserts that it was not made up.

Birth (Luke 1:5; 2:2)  Both set within
Death (Luke 23:1,7) history.

3. Pontius Pilate

- a. Asserted by some to not be a historical person until 1961.
4. By the time of Luke 23, Jesus had already been through several pre-trials before the Jews. Now He would be brought before the governing authorities.
 - a. Pilate
 - b. Herod Antipas

II. Exposition

A. Luke 23:1

1. An extraordinary alliance between the P_____ and the S_____.
2. “The most famous trial in history.”
3. Pilate
 - a. His name and origin.
 - b. Palestine was a difficult region to govern.
 1. His brutality was well-known – Lk 13:1.

B. Luke 23:2-3

1. Not paying taxes was a serious charge. (Lk 20:21-25)
2. Kingship – “Christ” is a royal title.

3. Pilate was aware of events of the past week.

4. Kingship not advanced during the first advent – John 18:36.

5. Jesus knew his lineage – Matt. 2:2

C. Luke 23:4-5

1. Additional backstory:

- a. Matt. 27:19, 24; Mark 15:14; John 18:37-38; 19:4-6

D. Luke 23:6-7

1. The bureaucratic passing of the buck.
 - a. Pilate tried to pass Jesus off earlier.
 1. John 18:31
 - b. Roman law

E. Luke 23:8-12

1. No guilt
2. An unholy alliance

III. Points for Reflection

A. A troubled conscience is God’s way to lead men to light and life, but not a guarantee, because most prefer darkness and to remain in death.

1. Mark 6:16; Romans 2:15; Hebrews 9:13-14

B. We live in a diverse and dis-unified world, but there is one thing the unbelieving agree on – They will not put their trust in Jesus.

1. Psalm 2:2

C. The question of what to do with Jesus came back to Pilate like a boomerang’s return to the one who threw it. The same spiritual boomerang returns to the unbeliever.

D. Jesus gave no answer to the charges.

1. Luke 23:9; Mark 14:60-61; 15:4-5; John 19:9; Isaiah 53:7; I Peter 2:22-23