God in the Dock

Luke 23:1-25

January 26, 2025

The Big Idea: Jesus Christ is a King with a Kingdom and this kingdom is not of this world and yet the entire world cannot escape the reach of His Kingdom. His Kingdom is not of this world, but it certainly can be found in this world.

Luke 23:13-25 (NASB)

23 **13** Now Pilate summoned to himself the chief priests, the rulers, and the people,**14** and he said to them, "You brought this man to me on the ground that he is inciting the people to revolt; and behold, after examining *Him* before you, I have found no basis at all in *the case of* this man for the charges which you are bringing against Him. **15** No, nor has Herod, for he sent Him back to us; and behold, nothing deserving death has been done by Him. **16** Therefore I will punish Him and release Him." **17** [Now he was obligated to release to them at the feast one *prisoner.*] **18** But they cried out all together, saying, "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas!" **19** (*He was* one who had been thrown into prison for a revolt that took place in the city, and for murder.) **20** But Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, **21** but they kept on crying out, saying, "Crucify, crucify Him!" **22** And he said to them a third time, "Why, what has this man done wrong? I have found in His case no grounds for *a sentence of* death; therefore I will punish Him and release Him." **23** But they were insistent, with loud voices, demanding that He be crucified. And their voices *began* to prevail. **24** And so Pilate decided to have their demand carried out. **25** And he released the man for whom they were asking, who had been thrown into prison for a revolt and murder; but he handed Jesus over to their will.

Jesus and Politics (Luke 23:1-7)

- Is Jesus a king? Yes! Is He a king that stands in direct opposition to Roman power? No.
- The prophets point to a king that is coming and in Jesus we see a king that has come.
- Jesus' kingdom is an upside-down kingdom.
- How should the Christian relate to politics? Do everything for the Lord's sake. (1 Peter 2:11-17)
- The issue of sin and the issue of the death of Christ does not come down to the decisions of a few choice people.

Jesus Before Herod (Luke 23:8-12)

1. The only thing Herod wanted Jesus for was his own amusement.
2. Like Herod, we may want Jesus for what He offers without the cost of signing up for anything.
3. For Herod, the time had come when God had nothing else to say.

Jesus: The Innocent and Condemned (Luke 23:13-25)

- Luke 9:22- "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day."
- R.C. Sproul- The crowd chose the man who thought he could give them political freedom over the man that could give them spiritual freedom.
- Will we give in to the cries of the world or will we give in to the call of Christ?
- God the innocent willingly stands in place of the guilty.

The Son of God stood, as a criminal, before a mortal man, and there permitted Himself to be accused and condemned, that we may stand boldly before God.

John Calvin