

## **[Perverting the Nation] / Gospel of Luke 22:63 – 23:43**

~ We traveled as far as we could go with Jesus through the Garden of Gethsemane in our last report from our Spiritual Safari. When the mind is traumatized it generally just wants to sleep. Exactly what happened in the garden is difficult for you and me to interpret. Then, when we were awoken by the mob we saw Jesus heal the ear of Malchus that had been cut off by Simon Peter in a failed attempt to cut off the head of the servant of the high priest. Interestingly to note is: this is the last act of His ministry when He heals this mans ear and Luke brings it to our attention in a very definite way. What we saw in that healing is the Lord Jesus correct the blunder of an overzealous disciple. Most of us stumble and blunder our way along a Christian-like path; cutting off ears, metaphorically speaking, left and right – as we aim to decapitate the religious rulers. We're all guilty of this. Well, some of the things we say and do require Jesus to come along behind us and heal them! And with that, we see the very wonderful way in which the Lord Jesus ministered right through the very end of His life! ~

### **XXII**

***63 And the men that held Jesus mocked him, and smote him.***

***64 And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophecy, who is it that smote thee?***

***65 And many other things blasphemously spake they against him.***

~ Okay, regarding who said what: we need to break down the arrest report in this section. It is evident the religious rulers arrested Jesus before they had a case. Of course, the religious rulers didn't plan to arrest Jesus at this time but Judas came along saying, "you better grab Him while you can!" Judas, for some reason, thought Jesus might leave the city; which is very strange because Jesus told them repeatedly that this is where He had come to die! So, anyways, they scrambled to grab Him. According to the Mosaic System it was illegal to hold Jesus without a charge. It was also illegal to bring Jesus to the home of the high priest; the accused was to be taken before the congregation at the tabernacle, you may remember. Well, we

saw the religious rulers take Jesus to the home of Caiaphas where they attempted to manufacture a charge! So, every single thing that they did and every move they made in this arrest and subsequent trial of Jesus were completely against the Mosaic Law. They tried Him at night. The high priest rent his garments. A decision was rendered the same day of the trial. They held Him at the Sanhedrin while they fabricated a malicious prosecution. ARREST REPORT SUMMARY: Every single procedure and protocol of the entire Mosaic System of Justice and Law was broken by the religious rulers during the arrest and trial of the Lord Jesus Christ! ~

***66 And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their council, saying,***

***67 Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe:***

***68 And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go.***

***69 Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.***

***70 Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am.***

***71 And they said, What need we any further witness? for we ourselves have heard of his own mouth.***

~ The idiomatic answers from Christ regarding these two charges constitute the entire basis on which they will crucify Him. However, this is NOT the basis they take their case to the Roman court with! They could never take Jesus to Pilate with Jewish religious charges, or course. So, they go to Pilate with the charge of treason. Of course, the charge is so preposterous that even Pilate must have thought it was an absurd joke....

**XXIII**

***1 And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate.***

**2 And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.**

**3 And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it.**

**4 Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man.**

**5 And they were the more fierce, saying; He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place.**

**6 When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean.**

**7 And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.**

~ All of the timing of the events and people placement surrounding the crucifixion is no accident. Remember, Herod had desired to see Jesus before but Jesus graciously declined the invitation. Well, Jesus still doesn't have anything to say to that 'old fox.' Jesus does not answer the man that is on his way to a lost eternity. Herod had passed the place of no return in his life and Jesus makes no effort or attempt to reach Herod at all. This is a frightful, sobering reality, friends....

**8 And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.**

**9 Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.**

**10 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.**

**11 And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.**

**12 And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.**

~ Right in the middle of the religious rulers making spectacles of themselves; we also have the beginning of the first ecumenical movement away from Jesus as Herod and Pilate realize they can be friends. Many groups come together today on one basis: they're both opposed to the Lord Jesus Christ! Even so, they find nothing they could accuse Him of as far as law breaking that would be worthy of death.

Well, Pilate is a vacillating and sloppy ruler with his decision to "chastise" Jesus and let Him go. Here, we actually see Pilate trying to get away and escape making a decision – not Jesus. As always, Jesus turns the tables and – all of the sudden – Pilate is now on trial. Jesus is not only NOT trying to get away – Jesus is provincially ensuring all of this happens as it is happening and at the time that it is happening at! Also, the moment that Christ is crucified the countdown on the clock of Rome's days as world ruler started clicking off the seconds, too, by the way. Starting now, Rome is on its way out – God had used them up for their only purpose! My friends, that ought to bring you into an extreme awareness of the fear of God! ~

**13 And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people,**

**14 Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have 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.**

~ The problem here is that if Jesus is guilty He should be punished and if He is not guilty then He should be set free. So, this decision is wrong all the way around! Everyone is going to be forced to make a decision for the Lord Jesus Christ in their lives; will your decision be one of compromise? Compromise is the most immoral word in the English language. What we see is old man Pilate who can't make a decision and again we see another compromise offered with Barabbas being set free. Pilate cannot even make a legal decision in accord with Roman law without being wrong. Well, Pilate cannot believe his ears as this unfolds....

***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.***

***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.**

~ I have to honestly wonder if it is better not to bring children into this world today. I have two children that I love dearly and I hope and pray for the best for their lives. I do not like to think we might have entered that time period when it is best not to have children but I do want to be objective. I can't help but have a nagging feeling this is the case. I could be wrong and I would hope that I am. The population explosion we are seeing is growing and, frankly, it is alarming how many people are going to be in this world in the next fifty years. Our quality of life diminishes each day. This is what sin will do to a people. Jesus says the day is coming when it will be better for man not to bring more children into this world. That's why we should weep for ourselves. Jesus wants our obedience and trust! Jesus didn't have to do this for us and He isn't interested in your sympathy. God is only interested in your faith in His Son, friends! ~

**31 For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?**

**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.***

~ If Jesus had not Personally intervened at this time for these people by asking the Father for their forgiveness for putting Him to death then these people would have all committed the unpardonable sin. The people are mocking Him to come down from the cross but if He had come down off of the cross then He could not have been the Christ! Isaiah's prophecy would not have been fulfilled because the Christ must be wounded for our transgressions....

***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.***

~ As we know, the New Testament was written in Greek. Greek is the language of intelligence and education, literature, science; and in Latin this speaks to a language of law and order and of militant conduct and government. Hebrew, naturally, speaks to the language of religion. The Lord Jesus will be the spiritual, religious, authoritative and intellectual Ruler of this world when He returns to establish His Kingdom. The only way to arrive at a meaningful personal conclusion of all of this now is to consider all four Gospel accounts of this writing together – and that's what we will do in the Gospel of John! ~

***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.***

~ When they were initially all thrown together at the death house the thieves both ridiculed Jesus. Well, at some point in the last three hours of Jesus being on the cross, one of the thieves came to understand that something supernatural was happening. They both knew Barabbas was supposed to be hanging there instead of Jesus. One thief recognized that a transaction between Jesus and God Himself was playing out in front of his own dying eyes. That's when the thief turned to Jesus in faith! The thief was not a good thief – he was a very bad thief. The man that the Roman government condemned went to be with Christ directly from his punishment....

***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 ~***

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