

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #91

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 22:63 – 23:25

Sermon Date: July 1, 2007

They Changed Their Votes!

We've come a long way from Triumphal Entry Sunday. The cheering crowds laying down their coats at the sight of Jesus riding in on a colt as a conquering king have seemingly turned into an angry mob, perhaps frustrated that their Sunday hero seems to have turned out to be a Friday failure – weakly submitted to a string of accusations including, of all things, blaspheme!

Who will stand up for Jesus? Peter said he would, and so did his ten compatriots – but we all know how that turned out. Where are they now? He stands alone, undefended, enduring beatings & blindfolds, trumped up charges, repeated interrogations. Who will stand up for Jesus?

How about you? Perhaps you've accepted Christ as your Savior, or you're exploring Christianity and coming to appreciate his greatness and unique role in history. That's great! That's Triumphal-Entry-Sunday stuff. But will you stand up on Friday – perhaps against the crowds – and faithfully stick with Jesus? By the power of the Holy Spirit you can! With prayer you can! Through the gospel – the very power of God – you can! Will you?

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

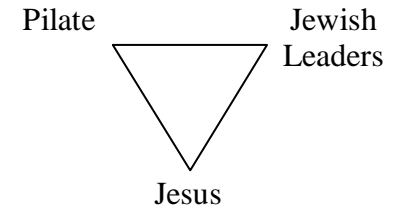
1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>⁶³ The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. ⁶⁴ They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophesy! Who hit you?" ⁶⁵ And they said many other insulting things to him.</p> <p>⁶⁶ At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. ⁶⁷ "If you are the Christ," they said, "tell us."</p> <p>Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me, ⁶⁸ and if I asked you, you would not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God."</p> <p>⁷⁰ They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?"</p> <p>He replied, "You are right in saying I am."</p> <p>⁷¹ Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips."</p> <p>Chapter 23</p> <p>¹ Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. ² And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king."</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>³ So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"</p> <p>"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied.</p> <p>⁴ Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."</p> <p>⁵ But they insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here."</p> <p>⁶ On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷ When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.</p> <p>⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. ⁹ He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹² That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.</p> <p>¹³ Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, "You brought me</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”</p> <p>¹⁸ With one voice they cried out, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” ¹⁹ (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)</p> <p>²⁰ Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. ²¹ But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”</p> <p>²² For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.”</p> <p>²³ But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand. ²⁵ He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.</p>	

2. There are three principle forces seen in conflict in this Friday morning scene – (1) the various Jewish religious leaders, (2) Pilate (& Herod) – representing the secular Roman government, and (3) Jesus. Use the chart below to summarize their respective positions in the conflict (regarding who Jesus was, what should happen to him, and why it mattered) and their respective strategies for prevailing in this conflict.



What Was Their Position About Who Jesus Was, What Should Happen To Him, Why it Mattered?	What Was Their Strategy for Prevailing in this Conflict?
<p>Pilate: <i>(see also John 18:34-38)</i></p> <p>Jewish Leaders:</p> <p>Jesus:</p>	<p>Pilate: <i>(see also Matthew 27:24)</i></p> <p>Jewish Leaders:</p> <p>Jesus:</p>

Look Closer:

3. What things was Jesus accused of by the chief priests and teachers of the law? (Luke 23:1-2) Which of their allegations were true?

4. What are some of the specific ways recorded in this passage that Jesus was mistreated? List below the words you can find in the passage that represent forms of abuse (e.g. “mocking” in 22:63).

5. How would you respond under similar circumstances? (arrested because of your beliefs, isolated, interrogated, humiliated, beaten, etc.)

6. What are some specific things Jesus had done beforehand that helped prepare him to face this abuse? When would similar preparations be appropriate in your own life? How could you take actions this week to imitate Jesus’ preparations for hardship?

7. What are the implications of Luke 22:69? What would it have meant to the Jewish leaders hearing it then? What does it mean to you from your vantage point reading it today?

8. What are the implications of Luke 22:70? Who is Jesus claiming to be? Based on their response, who do the elders think he’s claiming to be? What do you believe about his claim – who do you say Jesus is?

9. When you think back to the triumphal entry scene (Luke 19:37-40) – it was probably easy to imagine yourself in that large crowd, praising Jesus, right? But how about the large crowd that was assembled on Friday morning – shouting “Crucify him! Crucify him!” – can you see yourself in this crowd? Who do you think was in that crowd – did it include some of the same people from Sunday? Could they, like Peter the night before, have said one bold thing when there was no pressure or danger, and the opposite thing when the heat was on? Okay, enough rhetorical questions – here’s one to answer:

How have you fared in standing up for Jesus and your faith in him, particularly when there was social pressure to deny him or at least to remain silent? What are some specific things you can do or habits you can form to be more ready to be strong when your faith is challenged?

10. How does reading & studying this passage about Jesus' humble sacrifice on your behalf make you want to respond? What does it make you want to do, to live like, to say?

11. One worship-oriented response would be to write a thank-you note to Jesus, expressing how you feel toward him because of what he endured in order to free you and enable you to have eternal life. You could write it below.

Dear Lord,