

Luke 23:6-16

New International Version

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.

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 a sign** of some sort. 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.

¹³ **Pilate called together** the chief priests, the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, "You brought me 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."**

You may be expecting Lisa. That's not me! We have done a swap so you can look forward to Lisa preaching a bit later in the new series after Pentecost.

How do we know the truth?

How do we establish justice?

STORY: imagine accused falsely, go to court, accusations from prosecution, judge says don't stand up – NOT GUILTY, AQUITTED – but they shout and accuse some more, sent to a different court, NOT GUILTY; sent back third time NOT GUILTY – so the prosecution keeps arguing and asking for what they call "justice"

How would you feel? - injustice, unfair

Jesus is accused of sedition – a rebel, a king to rival Caesar, Pilate is fearful, he tries to palm off on Herod – SEE TEXT

In Roman Law 4 principles – 1) equal treatment 2) innocent until proved guilty 3) burden of proof with accuser 4) unreasonable or unfair law can be set aside

In English Law to prove a crime need to show Actus Reus – the act and Mens Rea – the intentional mind; Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey,

Jesus never showed any intention to overthrow Rome. The people called him King and he asked for no uprising. He was innocent.

Pilate and Herod seem to find Jesus deluded but not guilty.

Yet the CROWD cried out, incited by the teachers of the law. And Jesus died. It was an injustice. It was untruth. And God used these things not of him to save the world. Not because of them but despite them.

Pilate famously asked Jesus in Johns Gospel "What is truth". When he saw Jesus on the cross with the name plat saying King of the Jews he knew. I have written what "I have written". The question for us now is how do we find truth?

Black history – canny traders and naïve adventurers, might and guns, slavery, no cost big profits (Hamilton – Tom Jefferson no debt, Alex Hamilton no wages), too much to lose, general assumptions and segregation, white supremecy; untruth born of power and "economic necessity"; injustice for convenience and listening to the loud powerful voices.

LLF – process of discernment – not just the loudest voices, but the voice of truth, the voice of God – we hear that through listening and searching in scripture

How can we tell as we start to discern opening up? NOT the loudest voice; NOT the one who says I think or I want; NOT the one with power or resources; NOT through fear and ignorance (like the crowd); IS the one who says that's what will bless them ; IS the body of Christ listening and obeying together

Jer call "9 Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant." (Jer 1:9-10)

Discernment is what to tear down and what to build and plant. But how we do it is as important as what we do.

***"29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." (Eph 4:29)* We are called to build each other up in our search for God's heart. Take care how we speak, be open to new things and use our minds as well as our emotions. And pray. Seek his face and seek his heart in this new season. Do not bay like the crowd but listen quietly and use reason. Ask gentle questions and encourage others. Otherwise we mock Jesus by mocking and ridiculing his body, just as Herod and the soldiers did.**

We need to be generous and focused on God. Following Paul's guidance to the Collosian Church: ¹² *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.* ¹³ *Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.* ¹⁴ *And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity*"

Let's pray....