

Who Is JESUS? | Luke 22:67-71 & 23:1-3

Last week, we looked at a couple of questions that Pilate asked of the Jews:

Matthew 27:21 - The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.

“Who Gets To Live” & “Who Gets Crucified” was the first question.

Then Pilate asked a question that every man has to answer:

“What shall I do with JESUS?”

Matthew 27:22 - Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

So JESUS would be crucified – as the anger of the crowd grew, putting pressure on Pilate.

But not everyone who looked upon JESUS would think HE deserved death.

Of course the disciples didn't think HE was worthy of death, along with Mary Magdalene.

Pilate didn't see JESUS as a threat & his wife confirmed that.

Although there may be several others who saw JESUS differently, I'd like to point out just a few of them.

The title of my message today is “Who Is JESUS?”.

Luke 22:67-71 & 23:1-3

This was a question Caiaphas, the High Priest, wanted the answer to: “Who Is JESUS?”.

Luke 22:67 - Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, **If I tell you, ye will not believe:**

JESUS tells Caiaphas: “You can't handle the truth!”

So now the entire group wants to know & asks the question again?

Luke 22:70 - Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, **Ye say that I am.**

But just like Caiaphas, the council couldn't handle the truth.

They just couldn't see JESUS as the Messiah, the Son of GOD or the Coming King!



So now, JESUS is brought before Pilate & he is asking the same question: **“Who Is JESUS?”**

Luke 23:3 - And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, **Thou sayest it.**

Although Pilate wasn't quite sure who JESUS was, he certainly didn't think HE was worthy of death.

There were a few others who saw JESUS differently.

1. **THE ROMAN SOLDIERS** – Matthew 27:27-31

✝ Matthew 27:31 ~ And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify *him*.

The Roman Soldiers didn't see JESUS as just another body to condemn.

They saw JESUS a joke & so they belittled HIM.

2. **SIMON OF CYRENE**

✝ Matthew 27:32 ~ And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

Simon would see JESUS as just a criminal condemned to death.

But he would be the first to embrace JESUS at the cross.

He would also be the first to be covered in the actual blood of JESUS.

3. **THE THIEVES ON THE CROSS**

✝ Luke 23:39 ~ And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.

One thief would taunt JESUS & tempt HIM to set them both free.

✝ Luke 23:40 ~ But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

The other thief recognized JESUS was innocent.

One saw JESUS as a way of escape, one saw JESUS as a way of hope.



4. JOSEPH OF ARIMETHAEA

- ✠ Matthew 27:59 ~ And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,
- ✠ Matthew 27:60 ~ And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.

Joseph saw JESUS as someone who needed to be honored.

Yes, JESUS is the Messiah!

Yes, JESUS is the Son of GOD!

Yes, JESUS is the Risen Lamb!

But “Who Is JESUS” to you?

What happens to you for eternity, will depend on how YOU look at JESUS & how you treat HIM!

Do you question HIS deity?

Do you mock HIM with the life you live or honor HIM with how you live?

Do you honor HIS death?

Do you see HIS crucifixion as a sacrifice for you sins?

Today, JESUS wants you to see HIM as YOUR Saviour – voluntarily!

One day soon, JESUS is coming back as KING & every eye will see HIM as such!

CONCLUSION: How do YOU see JESUS?

