

# Dundonald Youth: Luke

Week 6: God's King on trial!

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**Open in prayer:** Ask God to be with you, speaking to you through his word, helping you to trust Jesus.

**DO THIS STUDY FIRST - then listen to Pete TG talk!**

**Starter Question:** Imagine you lived in a country where the courts find the innocent *guilty* and the guilty *innocent* - how would you feel? Why do we care so much about justice? It is right and good that guilty people are found guilty and punished (and that innocent people are found innocent and released!) and we care deeply about this!! God has made us in his image and we long for justice. Today Jesus faces a total miscarriage of justice at the hands of Pilate, *so that* guilty sinners like us can be forgiven by God?!

Today we're going to work through the passage together followed by the talk. Feel free to underline verses you find interesting or surprising or confusing, and use the questions below as a launchpad to discuss each section:

## ***Before the Elders!*** - Read Luke 22:66-71.

- A. What are the religious leaders so triggered about? The big issue is the question of Jesus' identity - is he the *Messiah*? Is he the *Son of God*? They don't entertain any possibility that Jesus actually *could* be the *Messiah* / the *Son of Man* / the *Son of God*... rather they want him taken down for this outrageous and blasphemous claim!
- B. Look at Jesus' responses - why do you think he says these things? What do they mean? Jesus' initial response suggests it's clear their minds are made up and there's no point discussing it - see Luke 20:1-8 for a similar situation. Jesus then claims that they will see the 'Son of Man'<sup>1</sup> seated at God's right hand<sup>2</sup> because the true reality is the Jesus IS the *Messiah*, the *Son of Man*, the *Son of God*, and even though they think they are judging *him*, in fact God will vindicate Jesus by raising him back to life and welcoming him into his presence and giving him the position of honour and power at his right hand, and *Jesus will judge them!*

## ***Before Pilate!*** - Read Luke 23:1-7.

- A. How does this scene play out? Jesus is brought before Pilate, the accusations continue, and Jesus is passed on to Herod...
  - a. What is Jesus accused of? V2 that he's bad news for Israel ('our nation') and he's bad news for Rome ('opposes Caesar'). V5 that he 'stirs up' people by his teaching. There doesn't seem to be much of a case against Jesus, but the religious leaders try and frame it politically so that the trial can proceed and Jesus can be condemned.
  - b. How does Pilate respond? In verse 4 his judgement is very clear, 'I find **no basis** for a charge'. When he learns that Jesus is from Galilee, he hands over responsibility to Herod, and Jesus is passed along the chain...

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<sup>1</sup> this is a reference to a vision the Old Testament prophet Daniel has about a *human being* ('son of man') who is somehow **also** God, and King of an everlasting Kingdom, worshipped by all nations!

<sup>2</sup> this is a reference to Psalm 110 where the Messiah, a descendant of David, takes the place of honour and authority at God's right hand where he rules over and judges God's enemies

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### *Before Herod!* - Read Luke 23:8-12.

- A. How does Herod relate to Jesus at the beginning? By the end? Herod is delighted that Jesus is being sent to him. He's heard about the miracles and he's hoping he'll get to see something cool?! When Jesus doesn't engage with him, or perform for his entertainment, things turn ugly and they begin ridiculing and mocking Jesus. The 'elegant robe' is to mock Jesus' kingly claims, and Pilate and Herod bond over the ugly affair.

### *The Verdict!* - Read Luke 23:13-17.

- A. What phrase does Pilate repeat from earlier? What does he want to do? Pilate finds 'no basis' for the charges again! Herod has mocked Jesus, but he too agrees 'he has done nothing to deserve death'. The verdict, it seems, is that Jesus is innocent! Pilate wants to give him a cruel flogging, and release him...

### *Power to the people!* - Read Luke 23:8-12.

- A. How do you explain the crowds feelings towards Jesus / Barabbas? This is a sickeningly ugly scene. Jesus is innocent, Barabbas is a violent criminal, but the crowd want Jesus crucified and Barabbas released?! There's clearly no reasoning with the crowd, and eventually Pilate gives in and condemns Jesus to death. Why do the crowd do this?? Why are they so determined to get rid of Jesus? The testimony of the bible is that humans are natural bent against God, rebellious against his authority, wanting to enjoy his world without regard for Him or his King. Here, humanity gets to display their total rejection and rebellion as they demand that God's Son, God himself in human flesh, be taken away and crucified. They'd rather have a known criminal released, that put up with Jesus for one more second.

### **NOW LISTEN TO THE TALK - Youth Bible Series 6**

1. How do you think Barabbas felt about his release? Picture yourself in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. Hear the sounds, see the sights. Imagine you're Barabbas, and you get released from prison?! We don't know how he felt, so this is a totally speculative answer(!) but presumably he felt happy?! Amazed?! Free?! We don't know if he felt anything towards Jesus... but from our vantage point we can see what has really happened today: That Barabbas is free *because* Jesus dies, pointing towards the great truth that *sinners* are free because Jesus dies... so the real question is: How do *you* feel about what we've witnessed today?

2. How do you feel about what we've witnessed today? For some of us these are familiar verses and concepts, but don't let familiarity harden your heart... how do you feel about what we've seen in God's word today? Take time to think, to discuss, to pray, to praise, to sing, to listen, to worship.

**Pray:** about everything God has spoken to us in his word today!

**Listen/Sing:** Amazing Grace (my chains are gone) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jbe7OruLk8I>)

**Meditate:** Luke 23:25