

Testimony that Demands a Decision (Luke 23:1-25)

I. Decision is Deferred (23:1-7)

A. The Testimony is Heard (1-5)

1. The Religious Testifies Against Jesus (1-2)
 - a. He is misleading the nation
 - b. He is forbidding payment of taxes
 - c. He is claiming to be a king
 - d. He is ruining society and people's lives
2. Jesus Testifies to His Kingship (3)
 - a. Jesus confirms He is a king
 - b. Jesus confirms His true authority (John 18:37)
3. Pilate Testifies to Jesus' Innocence (4)
 - a. No guilt is found
 - b. Pilate knew He did nothing worth condemnation
 - c. His conscience told Him who Jesus was
4. Religious Testify Against Jesus (5)
 - a. They continually insisted
 - b. They accused Him of stirring up ppl

B. Pilate Refuses to Decide (6-7)

1. Pilate finds a way out – Galilean?
2. Pilate sends Him to Herod
3. Pilate doesn't want to make a stand
4. Pilate fears for his job and life
 - a. Caesar told him, no more riots

II. Decision is Refused (8-13)

A. Herod is Refused the Benefits of Jesus (8-9)

1. Herod Desired a Miracle (8)
 - a. He was glad to see Jesus
 - b. He had heard of Jesus
 - c. He wanted a sign from Jesus
2. Jesus refused to speak to Herod (9)
 - a. Herod wanted a trick
 - b. Herod is refused

B. Herod Refuses to Decide (10-11)

1. Religious continue their accusation (10)
2. Herod mocked and returned Him (11)
3. Rather than decide Herod deferred
4. Jesus would not perform for Him

C. Those Refusing to Decide actually decide against (12)

1. Herod and Pilate became friends
2. Herod and Pilate were enemies
3. Herod and Pilate shared their refusal to decide

III. Decision is Demanded (13-25)

A. No Fault is Found in Jesus (13-17)

1. Pilate declares His innocence (13-14)
 2. Herod had implied His innocence (15)
 3. Pilate decides to release Him
 - a. Punish Him to appease the crowd
- B. The Crowd Forces Pilate's Hand (18-25)
1. Religious Refuse to Release Jesus
 - a. They cried for Barabbas the Murderer
 - b. Pilate attempts to release Him again
 2. Pilate gives in to their Demand
- IV. Decision is Demanded for You
- A. One cannot "Ride the Fence" about Jesus
1. The World cries out against His Word
 2. We cannot be indifferent
 3. Our hand will be forced