

## Following the Real Jesus: Before Pilate and Herod

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Luke 23: 1-4, 18-19;

John 18:33-34, 36-38

Following the Real Jesus:

Jesus is on a mission: On Trial

<sup>1</sup> Then the whole group stood up and led Jesus to Pilate. <sup>2</sup> They began to accuse Jesus, saying, “We caught this man telling things that mislead our people. He says that we should not pay taxes to Caesar, and he calls himself the Christ, a king.” Luke 23:1–2

<sup>3</sup> Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Those are your words.”

<sup>4</sup> Pilate said to the leading priests and the people, “I find nothing against this man.” Luke 23:3-4

You say that I am -- “You say”

It’s a misleading question

“You have worded the question, and I will not deny that I am, but I would have worded it somewhat differently.”

<sup>33</sup> Then Pilate went back inside the palace and called Jesus to him and asked, “Are you the king of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Is that your own question, or did others tell you about me?” John 18:33–34

<sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If it belonged to this world, my servants would have fought to keep me from being given over to the Jewish leaders. But my kingdom is from another place.” John 18:36

<sup>37</sup> Pilate said, “So you are a king!” Jesus answered, “You are the one saying I am a king. This is why I was born and came into the world: to tell people the truth. And everyone who belongs to the truth listens to me.” John 18:37

<sup>38</sup> Pilate said, “What is truth?” After he said this, he went out to the crowd again and said to them, “I find nothing against this man. John 18:38

Truth is the distinction between Jesus’ kingdom and every human government.

Pilate and Herod do not see Jesus as a political threat. No power, no coercion. They mock him but have no interest in killing him.

Politics is about power. Making people do what you want.  
Truth is irrelevant to political goals.

What is more powerful the truth or a lie? It depends what your audience wants to hear.

Truth alone doesn't force people to change. Truth shows you that you can.

Jesus changes people from within. Go and make disciples of all nations.

*"I built a kingdom on force and it has melted away. And Jesus Christ built a kingdom on love and it stands still, and it will stand." - Napoleon*

<sup>18</sup> But the people shouted together, "Take this man away! Let Barabbas go free!" <sup>19</sup> (Barabbas was a man who was in prison for his part in a riot in the city and for murder.) Luke 23:18–19

Jesus Barabbas  
Savior, Son of the Father

There are two Jesus' (Saviors), and the crowd gets to pick who to release.  
They vote for the political revolution.

Jesus is killed for what Barabbas has literally done. Jesus literally takes Barabbas' cross.

Barabbas literally gets Jesus' freedom. This is the gospel. This is his mission.

He saved others, but he cannot save himself.  
He can save others because he WON'T save himself!!!

Is Jesus your King? Or, is he not your type?