

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Jesus Appears Before Herod Antipas

Last time...Several days prior, earlier in Jesus' Final Week of ministry...

Luke 20:19-20

Followed by

- testing the Lamb of God in the House of God (3 trick questions)
 - taxes (Pharisees and Herodians)
 - resurrection (Sadducees)
 - greatest Commandment (scribe)
- Judas conspires with the chief priests to betray Jesus and then does, as Jesus is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane
- Jesus is “tried” before Annas the high priest, where Peter denied knowing Him
- Jesus is “tried” before Caiaphas the high priest and a portion of the Sanhedrin and declared Guilty of blasphemy
- Jesus is marched over to the governor, Pontius Pilate, for “official” sentencing
 - In Matt and Mark, the Lamb is silent...
the Jews have Moses and the prophets (John 5:47)
 - In Luke, the “official” charges brought against Jesus by the Jews
 - In John, the King interrogates the governor
 - In all 4 accounts, the Jews did not get what they wanted –
Pilate declared Jesus Not Guilty
- Pilate found a way out of this sticky and explosive situation

This time...Jesus appears before Herod Antipas

We will be in Luke 23

v6 When Pilate heard of Galilee:

Pontius Pilate was a shrewd man.

He heard “Galilee” (v5) and zeroed in on that.

This man before him is Jesus...of Nazareth

Nazareth is in Galilee

Galilee is...not his jurisdiction

[map]

Score!

Let's pause for a moment to consider the mystery of the Messiah,
as revealed in the very words of God

Origin

1. from everlasting/eternity, born of a virgin (Micah 5:2, Is 7:14, Is 9:6-7)
2. from Bethlehem in Judah/Judea (Micah 5:2)
3. from Nazareth (Matt 2:23, Is 11:1, Jer 23:5, Jer 33:15, Zech 3:8)
4. from Egypt (Matt 2:15, Hosea 11:1)

God cannot lie and the Word of God cannot fail so...
all must be true ("and", not "or")

Mission

1. Suffering Servant (Is 42, Is 53, Ps 22, Gen 22, etc)
2. Conquering King (Ps 2, Rev 19, etc)

God cannot lie and the Word of God cannot fail so...
both must be true (2 separate missions)

Demeanor

1. Lamb that is silent (Is 53, John 1:29, etc)
2. Lion that roars (Gen 49:9-10, Rev 5, etc)

God cannot lie and the Word of God cannot fail so...
both must be true

In fact, all 8 must be true of God's Savior

The possible population of God's Saviors is...only 1

And given Origin #1-#4 and Mission #1 and Demeanor #1,
regarding His Identity:

1. To the Jews: Tell no man (the Jews have Moses and prophets)
 - Peter, James, and John (Transfiguration)
 - cleansed leper
 - healed deaf mute
 - man born blind
 - Jairus and wife
2. To the Gentiles: Tell everyone
 - man possessed by Legion

Back to a very nervous Pilate who picked up on "Galilee"

v7 he sent Him to Herod:

Pilate saw his escape, his way out of this jam and to pass off this very sticky court case via a legal technicality: It's not my jurisdiction!

So he sends Jesus to the ruler of the jurisdiction of Galilee, Herod Antipas

History

- Herod the Great was given the title of “King” by the Roman Senate
 - ruthless (Matt 2:1-18, killed own wives and sons)
 - revenue generator...at the crossroads of continents, he built huge commercial enterprise and thus, generated a great amount of taxes
 - presented the might and power of the Roman Empire (his building projects including many fortresses) in protecting the far eastern border of the Roman Empire
- When Herod the Great died, his realm was divided among his (surviving) sons [map]
 - Archeleus: Judea, Samaria, Idumea
 - Antipas: Galilee, Perea
 - Philip: Ituraea, Trachonitis
 - Archeleus proved unable to keep the peace, unable to rule with the iron fist of his father, so Caesar Augustus made Judea/Samaria a Province in 6AD and appointed a Roman governor (Pilate was the 5th)
- Herod Antipas is
 - of “John the Baptist” fame (Matt 14:3-12)
 - in cahoots with the Pharisees when it comes to Jesus (Luke 13:31-33)

Herod Antipas' HQ was in Tiberias, a very Roman town...but he so happens to be in Jerusalem now

Because this is the Passover, not that he is a Jew (for he is not) but this is where all the action is

v8 he was exceeding glad:

Herod was delighted to see Jesus show up before him!

Jesus never went to Tiberias and He had no time for this fox

But Herod Antipas heard all the buzz about Jesus of Nazareth and the amazing things He did

- casting out demons just about everywhere
- healing lepers and blind and lame and deaf
- raising the dead (Nain and Capernaum were in his jurisdiction)
- healing the sick son of a gov't official in Capernaum...from Cana by just speaking
- feeding 5000 men and then 4000 men (besides women and children) with a little boy's lunch and a few loaves and fishes, both times in his jurisdiction
- calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee by merely speaking
- walking on the water of the Sea of Galilee

Jesus' fame and reputation...his works, testifying of Who He is...
have preceded Him

Now, tonight, Herod was going to get a personal showing of this miracle worker!
"Oh, it's good being me!"

Herod's heightened interest in Jesus Christ

- was in His entertainment value (Roman culture was obsessed with entertainment...to keep the masses content)
- was not in His eternal value (Is 9:6)

What about the citizens of our entertainment-obsessed culture, including churches?

Interest because of His entertainment value?

Interest in His eternal value?

Is Jesus

- the Miracle Worker
- the Performer of amazing feats

or is Jesus

- the Christ, the promised Messiah
- the Son of the Living God
- Redeemer and Savior
- Lamb and Lion
- Servant and King

v9-10 questioned...answered:

The chief priests and scribes, bound and determined to get the “official” verdict they covet, fiercely accuse Jesus of high crimes against the State/Empire, probably v2 again

They are

- allies with the Herodians against Jesus (Matt 22:15-17)
- urgent, increasingly feeling the time pressure to wrap this thing up before Passover activities begin, in which they play a central role
- getting more and more amped up (rabid) with every stop
- living examples of Divine truth
 - Prov 16:28a A froward man soweth strife
 - Prov 17:19a He loveth transgression that loveth strife:
 he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction.
 - Prov 28:25a He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife
 - Prov 29:22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a
 furious man aboundeth in transgression

Herod Antipas rapid fires questions to his “guest”, who is bound like a dangerous criminal

Jesus is on trial yet again; how does He respond this time?

Just as He has previously before His accusers – the Lamb is silent

Don’t you wonder what He was thinking?

Perhaps He was He was thinking that He was willingly going to pay for these sins in a matter of hours

Perhaps He was praying...maybe Ps 43 or some other Psalm of David

But we do know that He was not lashing out in His flesh!

His Spirit was in control

He has nothing to say to anyone present

Woe to the man to whom Jesus Christ has nothing to say!

He is no person’s circus act

When it is in fact His “show time” (Rev 1:7), people will wail and cry, not cheer and applaud

v11 set Him at nought...mocked...arrayed...sent:

Herod, surrounded by his Roman soldiers, gets nothing from Jesus...
no show, no info

He had hoped to get so much

Perhaps frustrated and angry, the wicked Herod Antipas

- set Jesus at nought...despised Him
Is 53:1-3a Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men
- mocked Him...Jesus has been mocked by Jews, now by the Gentiles; mocking the man
- arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe...a king's robe (Matt 11:7-8),
“dressing up” the charge in v2;
mocking The King...before Whom every knee will bow, later
 - Ps 2 He is the King...as the world will see
 - Jer 10:7 King of nations
 - Jer 10:10 the Lord is the true God, the living God, an everlasting king, and at His wrath the earth shall tremble and the nations shall not be able to abide His indignation
 - Jer 46:18 the King whose name is the LORD of hosts
 - Jer 48:15 the King whose name is the LORD of hosts
 - Jer 51:57 the King whose name is the LORD of hosts
 - Luke 19:12-14, 27
 - Rev 19:11-16 with Rev 1:7
 - Zech 14:16 And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of Tabernacles
- sent Him back to Pilate...”Get this man out of my sight.”
Why back to Pilate?
Herod Antipas does not have the “power and authority of the governor” (capital punishment), only Pilate does
he is not Roman

v12 made friends together:

Heretofore, Pilate and Herod Antipas were enemies, hostile toward each other

Per Josephus:

Herod Antipas wanted his father's entire kingdom and title after his father died

He went to Rome to petition for both

Rome denied his petition and Antipas left with his ambition denied

Pilate is the 5th governor who replaced his brother (no leverage) and

Antipas despised him as he did the previous 4

Pilate saw Herod Antipas as a hostile threat to his career

But now...this day (Passover)...Pilate and Herod Antipas become associates, buddies because

- they share mutual enemies/threats to their careers/dominions
 - the "holier than thou" Jews who think they are nothing but dogs
 - this Jesus character
- the devil makes peace between warring factions of his army in order to kill the Christ

Marching in parallel are

1. the will of man...Jew and Gentile
2. the will of Satan
3. the will of God

Application: 4 take-aways

1. Lawlessness

EVERYTHING about all these "trials" of Jesus

1. Annas
2. Caiaphas
3. Pilate
4. Herod Antipas
5. Pilate

is illegal...against the Law (of God AND man)

It reminds me of U-turns on red

How many of you have witnessed a driver making a U-turn at a red light...

crossing over into the lanes that have the green light in order to go back they way they came?

I never saw such a thing until the past few years

Now, I see it once a week...it has become commonplace

It's illegal...because it's dangerous, potentially harmful to people on the road
When has it ever been legal?
Does "commonplace" make it legal?
It is...lawlessness

The "trials" of Jesus are lawlessness...the laws of God and man (Jew and Roman)
are being ignored in favor the will of wicked men

But...we need to keep our eyes and minds on God's purpose and perspective

Jesus came to do the will of His Father –

- to keep the Law for all Lawbreakers
Rom 10:4 For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth
- to satisfy His justice so He can offer grace without violating His nature
Rom 8:3-4 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2. What is the value of Jesus Christ to you – entertainment or eternal?

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/inside-churchhome-justin-biebers-vip-and-sex-joke-filled-celebrity-megachurch>

3. Woe to the person to whom Jesus has nothing to say

Those who will not hear the Lamb will hear the Lion
Those who will not hear the Servant will hear the King

Hear the Lamb, hear the Servant!
He speaks of Life, Love, and Light

4. Satan makes friends of enemies when it suits his purpose...
and he also seeks to make friends enemies

We must be wise (2 Cor 2:7-11) and diligent to keep Jesus in our relationships
(2 Cor 8:7-9)

Why we have ME, FF, and the Word in the center of all our gatherings

Make peace, keep peace, defend peace (Rom 5:1)

Fellowship!!!