

THE SILENCE OF THE LAMB
MARK 15:1-5 / 8-23-17 / WED

INTRODUCTION

- A. Did you see the rather gruesome movie called, “The Silence of the Lambs”? It starred Jodie Foster as an FBI agent and Anthony Hopkins as a depraved serial killer.

- B. In John 1:29 John the Baptist called Jesus “The Lamb of God.” In today’s study we see that this Lamb of God stood silent before his accusers while on trial. Actually Jesus faced six different trials on the way to the cross.
 - 1. There were three Jewish trials.

 - 2. There were also three Romans trials.

 - 3. Although we’ve already examined the Jewish trials let’s review them briefly.

I. THE JEWISH PHASE OF JESUS’ TRIALS.

- A. First, before Annas, the former High Priest—John 18:12-14 and 19-24.

John 18:12-14

12 Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him 13 and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. 14 Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

John 18:19-24

19 Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. 20 “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. 21 Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.” 22 When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded. 23 “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” 24 Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

- B. Second, before Caiaphas—Mark 14:53 and 55-65.

Mark 14:53

They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together.

Mark 14:55-65

55 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. 56 Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. 57 Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: 58 “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” 59 Yet even then their testimony did not agree. 60 Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” 61 But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” 62 “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

63 The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. 64 “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” They all condemned him as worthy of death. 65 Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

- C. Third, before the entire Sanhedrin—Mark 15:1a.

Mark 15:1a

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans.....

1. Originally the Jews charged Jesus with blasphemy—Mark 14:63-64.

Mark 14:63-64

63 The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. 64 “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” They all condemned him as worthy of death.

2. However, they realized that Pilate would not consider a charge of blaspheme so they accused Jesus of treason—Luke 23:1-2.

Luke 23:1-2

1 Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. 2 And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.”

II. THE ROMAN PHASE OF JESUS TRIALS.

A. Jesus' first Roman trial was before Pilate—Mark 15:1b.

Mark 15: 1b

..... **So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.**

1. Who was Pilate?
 - a. Governor or Roman Procurator from AD 26-36.
 - b. Described in a letter by the Jewish King Agrippa to the Emperor Caligula as "inflexible, self-willed, relentless, vindictive, and cruel. He also said that Pilate often executed people without a trial."
 - c. Josephus writes that he was removed from office for killing a band of Samaritans (Antiq. 189:4).
 - d. Luke 13: 1 records an incident involving Pilate.

Luke 13:1

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.

- e. Tradition says that he eventually committed suicide.
2. Pilate interrogated Jesus—Mark 15:2a.

Mark 15:2a

"Are you the king of the Jews?" asked Pilate.....

3. Jesus gave him an ambiguous response—Mark 15:2b.

Mark 15:2a

..... **"You have said so," Jesus replied.**

- a. Jesus didn't say yes or no.
 - b. He may have meant "I'm not the kind of king these Jews say that I am."
4. Pilate asked Jesus to defend himself before his accusers—Mark 15:3-4.

Mark 15:3-4

3 The chief priests accused him of many things. 4 So again Pilate asked him, "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."

5. Jesus, however, remained silent—Mark 15:5.

Mark 15:5

But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

6. Mark, because of the brevity of his book, left out several other details about Jesus' trial that the other gospels include. For example....

- a. Pilate's wife's dream—Matt. 27:19.

Matthew 27:19

19 While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

- b. Pilate washing his hands of Jesus' guilt—Matt.27:24-25.

Matthew 27:24-25

24 When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" 25 All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"

- c. Jesus' appearance before King Herod (Luke 23:5-7).

- B. Jesus' second Roman trial was before King Herod—Luke 23:5-7.

Luke 23:5-7

5 But they insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here." 6 On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. 7 When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

1. Who was King Herod?
 - a. He was the son of Herod the Great—BC 37-4 BC.
 - b. He was called Herod Antipas.
 - c. He was given Galilee and Perea to rule following his father's death.
 - d. He built Tiberias, along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, as his capital.
 - e. He had an affair and married his brother's wife, Herodias.
 - f. At his wife's insistence he beheaded John the Baptist for calling attention to his marriage to his brother's wife.

2. King Herod questioned Jesus hoping he would perform a miracle—Luke 23:8.

Luke 23:8

8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort.

3. Probably because of his contempt for King Herod having killed John the Baptist, Jesus remained silent—Luke 23:9.

Luke 23:9

He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer.

4. King Herod ridiculed Jesus—Luke 23:10-12.

Luke 23:10-12

10 The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. 11 Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. 12 That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

- C. Jesus' third Roman trial was to appear a second time before Pilate—Luke 23:13-16.

Luke 23:13-16

13 Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, 14 and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. 15 Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. 16 Therefore, I will punish him and then release him."