



## LESSON 155 - MARK 15:6-15

Before Mark 15:6-15 takes place, Pilate sends Jesus to be judged by Herod Antipas, governor of Galilee, who was in Jerusalem at this time, perhaps for the Passover festivities. (He was the son of Herod the Great who had ruled over Judea when Jesus was born. (See Matt. 2:1-19) This was the fifth trial to which Jesus was wrongly subjected. The Gospel of Luke 23:4-12 gives the account of this meeting:

**So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man." But they were the more fierce, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place." When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked if the Man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.**

A careful study of Pilate's decisions and actions recorded in the Gospels shows that Pilate tried to dissuade the Jews over and over again from taking action against the innocent Jesus, but the Jewish leaders were determined to have Jesus killed. When Pilate heard that Jesus was a Galilean, he thought he could pass his dilemma on to Herod, ruler over Galilee, and avoid the conflict altogether. On the other hand, Herod was pleased that Pilate showed honor to him in sending this matter to him. He probably viewed it as a step of reconciliation taken by Pilate to heal the breach between them, and felt flattered by it.

**Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.**

Notice Herod had heard much about Jesus and the amazing miracles He had done. (Lk 9:6-9, Mt 14:1) Much of Jesus' ministry had been in Herod's territory of Galilee. Understandingly Herod had a great curiosity, desiring to see this Prophet, to hear Him speak, and to see some miracle done by Him. However, when Jesus failed to perform for Herod and didn't even answer Herod's questions, Herod became angry. He and his soldiers, probably bodyguards, jeered, derided, and ridiculed Jesus as the "King of the Jews," while putting a magnificent robe, perhaps one of Herod's, on Him.

Since Herod couldn't get any response from Jesus, he sent him back to Pilate, who was flattered

that Herod would do such a thing, because there had been hostility and bitter feelings toward each other in the past. Herod's action changed the atmosphere between them.

Herod could have concluded correctly, as Pilate had done, that there was no fault in Jesus and that He had done no wrong for which to be accused, but Herod was a vindictive man. With no conscience dictating his doing right, Herod continued the farce of the trials against the innocent Jesus.

In this account as well as the others, we see some of what Jesus suffered at the hands of ungodly men. Knowing the promise He had made to His Father in the covenant made before the world was founded, which He intended to fulfill, He did not fight against the false accusations and the brutal treatment. All He suffered was a part of the price He paid to ransom us and set us free from Satan's dominion. (1 Peter 1:18-21, Hebrews 2:14-15) Take a few minutes to give the Lord Jesus your praise for His sacrifice.

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