

# Luke

## See Jesus

### What Does Real Power Look Like?

#### Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-38; 19:7-12

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / May 19, 2024*

**Luke 22** and **23** list the powerful people that were involved in the death of Jesus. They thought they were determining His destiny, but they were absolutely wrong!

He was God's chosen, all-sufficient, sacrificial Lamb who came into this world to die for our sins. His death only took place at the exact moment that He and His Father had predetermined was the perfect time – during the Passover celebration.

The powerful people are actually the ones on trial, not Jesus! They could not condemn Him because there was nothing to condemn, but they condemned themselves when they rejected Him.

What they did with Jesus determined what God would do with them. The same is true for you. Every human being has to make a decision about what they'll do with Jesus.

In the midst of horrific abuse, hatred, and shouting, Jesus never lost sight of who He was and what He'd come to do.

#### I. He Knew That He Had Launched An Unshakable Kingdom

**John 18:36** “Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world.’”

Jesus' kingdom is not political, physical, or earthly. That's such good news because it means His kingdom is eternal, unshakeable, and is comprised of every man or woman who calls Him “Lord Jesus.”

Right now, the kingdom of God is with us and is doing far more than any political party could ever do because His kingdom advances by His Spirit and by His Word of truth.

**John 18:37** “Then Pilate said to Him, ‘So You are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness of the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.’”

#### II. He Knew That He Could Trust In God's Sovereign Plan

From a human perspective **Luke 23:25** describes what happened that day.

**Luke 23:25** “... but he delivered Jesus over to their will.”

Pilate made a real choice to turn Jesus over to really bad people to do something horrific that simply fulfilled the predetermined and glorious will of God!

**Acts 2:23** “This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”

It's the same thing the early church prayed when persecution broke out and they were told to no longer talk about the name of Jesus.

**Acts 4:27-29** "...for truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, <sup>28</sup> to do whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined to take place. <sup>29</sup> And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to Your servants to continue to speak Your word with all boldness..."

When you know that God is in control of all things, including evil things like the horrific and unjust death of Jesus, you'll have boldness to keep trusting Him and living for Him even when you fall into the hands of wicked people and hard circumstances. That's what gave Jesus the courage He had in the face of powerful and unjust rulers.

**John 19:10-11** "So Pilate said to Him, 'You will not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?' <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered him, 'You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above...'"

Jesus knew that He was only in their hands because God had willed it and would use it to save people from every tribe, tongue, language, and nation.

**Isaiah 53:7, 10-11** "He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth... <sup>10</sup> **Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him**; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; **the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.** <sup>11</sup> Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the Righteous One, My Servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities."

When the people were screaming "Crucify Him!" they were only confirming and carrying out God's divine plan. They were still guilty before God for this unjust murder, but it proves that God knew what He was doing. And He always does.

### III. He Knew That This Would Make A Way To Forgive Our Sin

What the religious leaders did in turning Jesus over to ruthless King Herod and spineless Governor Pilate would be on a human level what we call "unforgivable!"

But that's not the heart of our God towards them or us! The heart of God and the love of God is like nothing you're going to find in this world. See **Acts 3:11-20**.

**Acts 3:14-15, 19-20** "But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life... <sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord..."

God would forgive the very ones who screamed for the torture of His Son. There is no sin that He will not forgive when a sinner repents!

Regardless of who you are, what you've done, where you've been, or what's been done to you, you can be forgiven, made clean, whole, adopted, loved, and accepted because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

#### Conclusion –

The Gospel of **Matthew** tells us that at one point Pilate asked the crowd the most important question you could ever ask:

**Matthew 27:22** "... what shall I do with Jesus...?"

Jesus came to force a decision.

**John 14:6** "...I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

**John 3:16-19** "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. <sup>18</sup>**Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil."

What you do with Jesus will determine what God does with you when you stand before Him on that final day. Put your trust in Him. Believe that He is who He says He is and that He did for you what you could never do for yourself to save you from your sins.