

The Trial of Jesus

Luke 22:63 – 23:25

by Don Falkos

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At daybreak the chief priests and the experts in the Law came together in an assembly known as the Sanhedrin. They said to Jesus, "If you are the Messiah, tell us."

Jesus answered, "If I say I am, you won't believe me, and if I ask what you mean by your question, you won't answer me. What I will say is that from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of almighty God."

"So you are the Son of God?"

"That's right. I am."

"There you have it! What more evidence do we need? We've heard him say it for himself."

The whole assembly got up, took Jesus to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, and accused him of insurrection. Pilate questioned Jesus and found nothing criminal about him. When he learned Jesus was a Galilean, he sent him to Herod Antipas, governor of Galilee, who happened to be in Jerusalem at the time.

Herod taunted Jesus and asked lots of questions. But Jesus didn't answer; he just stood there in silence. Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate, not having found him guilty of anything.

Pilate addressed the crowd. "It's clear this man hasn't done anything wrong, in spite of all your accusations. I'm going to give him a strong warning and let him go."

The crowd objected and demanded instead the release of a violent criminal named Barabbas. When Pilate asked about Jesus, they shouted, "Crucify him!"

Now it was Pilate's turn to object. He offered to have Jesus beaten before letting him go. But the crowd shouted him down. They kept demanding, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Eventually, Pilate gave in. He released Barabbas and handed Jesus over to be crucified.