

Pastor Roy's Sermon on Luke 23:1-25 (September 13, 2026)

—Below are questions from that lesson to further our understanding—

1. The sermon emphasizes that every person involved in the trial of Jesus played their part exactly as God had foreknown, fulfilling a plan set in motion thousands of years earlier -- how does this truth about God's sovereignty challenge or strengthen your personal trust in Him during circumstances that seem chaotic or unjust?
2. Pilate declared Jesus innocent three times and yet still handed Him over to be crucified out of fear of the crowd -- in what ways do we, like Pilate, sometimes choose the approval of people over standing firm in what we know to be right, and what are the spiritual consequences of that choice?
3. The religious leaders who were most devoted to the study of Scripture were the very ones most blind to the Messiah standing before them -- what warning does this hold for those of us today who may know the Bible intellectually but resist allowing it to transform our hearts?
4. Herod had long desired to see Jesus, yet when Jesus stood before him he only wanted to see a miracle performed for his entertainment -- how does Herod's shallow curiosity about Jesus differ from a genuine saving faith, and where might we find similar tendencies in ourselves?
5. The crowd that called for Barabbas to be released and Jesus to be crucified was largely stirred up by the influence of corrupt religious leaders -- how responsible are we for the spiritual influence we allow others to have over our thinking, our convictions, and our actions?
6. The sermon points out that the religious leaders faithfully followed Roman law regarding capital punishment while simultaneously being willing to murder Stephen on their own later -- what does this selective obedience reveal about the danger of using religion as a cover for personal agendas?
7. Jesus remained silent before Herod, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 53:7, offering no defense and performing no miracle for a man who had no genuine interest in truth -- what does the silence of Christ in that moment teach us about the nature of God's grace and the limits of human curiosity without repentance?
8. The sermon describes Jesus as the substitutionary atonement for the sins of the world -- an innocent man dying for a guilty world -- how does meditating on that reality personally change the way you approach your own sin and your relationship with God?
9. Both Pilate and Herod, two morally compromised men, agreed that Jesus was innocent, while the religious establishment condemned Him -- what does it say about the state of a person's heart when the world can see the innocence that those who claim to speak for God refuse to acknowledge?