

Jesus before Herod

Luke 23: 7-12

The long, difficult night for Jesus continues. He has been betrayed by a friend, stood before the mockery and deceit of the Sanhedrin, and brought before Pilate early in the morning. While being examined of Pilate, it was discovered that Jesus was accused of stirring up trouble in Galilee and all Israel. As Pilate heard accusations regarding Galilee, he knew Herod was in Jerusalem at that time and that he held jurisdiction over the Galilean region. Hoping he would appease the Jews, Pilate ordered Jesus sent to stand before Herod.

Our text offers the brief encounter Jesus had with Herod prior to His crucifixion. It doesn't offer a lot of detail, but we have enough to discover that Jesus was denied, mocked, and rejected in this court as He had been previously. As we will discover, Herod, like the others, was not interested in truth. There was a certain novelty that interested them concerning Jesus, but there was no desire to know Him or discover truth.

The same remains true for many today. People are willing to view Jesus from a distance. They have heard others speak of this Man and His mighty works, but there is no desire to learn of Him or discover the profound truth surrounding Him. Many view Jesus in light of His works and abilities more than His being the divine Son of God, Savior of humanity. For many, their knowledge of Jesus is reduced to the accounts of others who have encountered Him.

Just as the Jews, Pilate, and Herod had to consider Jesus, so must every man. None can ignore or deny Him. We must either accept or reject Jesus as the Christ. I would caution, this decision has eternal implications. What one does with Christ will affect their eternal destination. Let's consider the [indignities](#) Jesus endured in this courtroom as we think on: [Jesus before Herod](#).

I. The Arrival in the Court (8) – [And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.](#) Here we find the reaction of Herod as Jesus was brought before him. We see:

A. The Curiosity (8a) – [And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad.](#) It is interesting to discover that Herod was excited to see Jesus brought before him. Luke describes Herod as being exceeding glad to see Jesus. We must understand that the excitement of Herod was not founded upon a desire to learn of Jesus. He was in no way interested in the message Jesus taught. Herod did not view Him as God in the flesh. Herod was merely curious about Jesus. He was intrigued by what he had heard concerning Jesus. His desire was only superficial.

- This trend and appeal remains in our day as well. Jesus is the central figure in human history. His life and presence among men cannot be denied. For many there is an air of curiosity surrounding Jesus.
- Now, I will agree that curiosity can lead to a desire to know more, but mere curiosity about Jesus will not bring salvation or a right relationship with God. Knowing about Jesus is much different than actually knowing Jesus in salvation. Millions have read the gospel accounts and are familiar with the life of Jesus, but they have never responded in faith unto salvation.

B. The Cynicism (8b) – *And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him.* Herod had heard much about this Man named Jesus. In fact, Herod had desired to see Jesus for some time, but we must not assume that Herod was a believer. Everywhere Jesus went, lives were touched and changed. It would have been impossible to live in or around Jerusalem in that day and not know of Jesus. Although Herod had heard much of Jesus, he was very cynical in regard to Jesus. In his mind, these accounts were too preposterous to believe. He was not seeking to hear the truth Jesus spoke or the doctrine He shared.

- Bear in mind this is the man who ordered John the Baptist beheaded. He was well acquainted with John and was even intrigued with him. John had confronted Herod concerning his sin. He had heard much of Jesus through the preaching of John, but he was in no way ready or willing to embrace Him as the Christ. Herod's mind was already made up about Jesus.
- Many remain cynical and doubtful about Jesus today. They may know friends or loved ones who have been transformed through a relationship with Christ. There is no denying the change that has transpired. They may have attended church services and even read the Bible, and yet they refuse to embrace Jesus or the Gospel message. Like Herod, their minds are already settled and they have little regard for Jesus.

C. The Ceremony (8c) – *and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.* Herod was clearly not interested in truth or spiritual matters. He was not looking to Jesus as the Messiah. He was only interested in a form of entertainment. He had heard of the many miracles Jesus performed and he hoped Jesus would perform for him while He was there. Herod only wanted a show.

- Sadly this remains today also. Many are not interested in a personal, life changing relationship with the Lord. Many have no time for Him until tragedy or need strikes their lives, and then like Herod, they desire to see a miracle. They want Jesus to respond at their demand and perform for them. Many today attend church services regularly, but they are not seeking truth or a

relationship with Jesus. They are only there for the show. They come for personal gain or benefit, but have no desire to respond to the Gospel call and surrender their lives to Christ.

II. The Accusations in the Court (9-10) – Here Luke records the proceedings and accusations of this mock trial. Notice:

A. The Questioning (9a) – *The he questioned with him in many words.* We don't have the benefit of knowing what these questions were, but we do know there were many. It would be safe to assume the questions were of little significance or benefit since they are not recorded for us. Apparently none of the questions were of a spiritual nature. None genuinely addressed the situation at hand. Likely they were an attempt to satisfy the carnal curiosity Herod had.

- Many today are confronted with truth and turn to vain and pointless questions. Some seek to validate their unbelief through questions aimed at discrediting the Scripture. Mankind is filled with questions and curiosity about Jesus, but they are unwilling to deal with the heart of the matter, the matters of the heart. Most are unwilling to admit their need and respond to the Gospel.

B. The Quietness (9b) – *but he answered him nothing.* Herod eventually discovered that he was the only one speaking. There had been no response to the countless questions he had asked. Jesus stood in silence, never speaking a word before Herod. We can't know for sure, but it appears his questions were so absurd and insignificant that they didn't warrant a response.

- We have read of a great tragedy in this verse. The Son of God, Savior and Redeemer of the world stood before Herod. The Door of salvation was before him, and yet Jesus stood in absolute silence. Herod's heart was so hard and filled with such unbelief that Jesus never spoke. There can be no greater tragedy than to be in the presence of Jesus and hear complete silence from Him. Herod had shunned the witness of the Gospel. He had no desire to learn of Jesus and he received not a word. If Jesus is speaking to you through the Spirit, you are blessed. It is dangerous to come to the place where Jesus is silent in your life. *Rom.1:28 – And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.* It is dangerous to reject the pleading of the Lord for salvation.

C. The Quarrel (10) – *And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.* Seeing the proceedings were not bringing the guilty verdict they desired, the prominent Jews brought vehement accusation against Jesus again as they stood before Herod. Their hatred was so strong, they were determined to see Jesus proclaimed guilty and crucified.

III. The Apathy in the Court (11) – [And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.](#) Consider:

A. The Reproach – [And Herod with his men of war set him at nought.](#) This has the idea of *holding with contempt, showing little esteem, to despise, or count as nothing*. The King of glory stood before them, the Creator of the universe, Savior of men, God in the flesh, and He was treated as a fraud. They saw no value in this Man and were happy to show their displeasure and hatred.

B. The Ridicule – [And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him.](#) Consider the setting we see. Jesus stands before Herod as he is surrounded by his men of war. In their eyes, this man claims to be a king, a man of great authority and power, the Son of God, and yet He stands before them beaten and abused. With that they begin to mock and ridicule Jesus. As others had done before, He is belittled as nothing more than a foolish imposter, seeking to be someone He doesn't appear to be.

- This continues today. The majority mocks the name of Jesus. He is not regarded as the Son of God. Most refuse to submit to His authority or look to Him for salvation. His precious name is taken in vain or used as a byword in jokes. Most never recognize Jesus as the Christ, our Savior and Lord. He continues to be set at nought before men today.

C. The Rejection – [and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.](#) This is simply further ridicule, but in doing so they reject and deny the Savior of humanity. Eternal Truth had stood before them and yet He was rejected and sent away. They stood in the presence of the only means of salvation and they chose to deny Him.

- Our world is filled with those who have been confronted with Truth and yet chose to deny Jesus and reject Him. The opportunity of salvation is presented and they foolishly determine to reject Christ and send Him away.

IV. The Agreement in the Court (12) – [And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.](#) Men who once stood opposed to each other were joined in friendship through the mockery and rejection of Jesus. They maybe had little in common before, but now they shared skepticism and rejection of Christ. Hearts of unbelief and rebellion created a friendship of depravity.

- We are aware of such activity around us today. Men are united in their hatred of Christ. They stand together in their efforts to silence the Christian voice and rid the world of any mention of Jesus. They are united in their hatred and opposition of the church. A lost world has heard the rallying cry to come together against this Jesus and those who follow Him.
- The world may be united against our Lord and those who follow Him, but His death was not the end of the story. Yes He willingly went to Calvary to atone for the sins of humanity. There He bled and died, but He didn't stay dead. The grave couldn't hold Him. He rose again triumphant over sin and death in resurrection life. He ascended back to the Father, but He is coming again. We are not serving a "has been" or an "imposter;" we serve the righteous Lord who will come again to rule and reign with all power and glory!

Conclusion: Jesus stood before Herod, and yet Herod did not believe. He was in the presence of the Savior and yet he denied Jesus, mocking and ridiculing Him. Many continue to do so today.

I am thankful for the day I stood in His presence and He spoke to me through the Holy Spirit. I repented of my sin and embraced Jesus by faith as Lord. He saved me that day and I am secure in Him. Others had rejected Him, but the offer was given and I responded.

Have you responded to the Lord's call for salvation? If He is speaking to you, you are blessed beyond measure. If that is the case, come to Him. Don't put it off another moment. You don't want to wind up as Herod, hearing nothing but silence from Jesus.