

Luke 23:1–12 (ESV)

¹Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate.

²And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.”

³And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, “You have said so.”

⁴Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.”

⁵But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”

⁶When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean.

⁷And when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time.

⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him.

⁹So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer.

¹⁰The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him.

¹¹And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate.

¹²And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

“The Passive Obedience of Christ: His Innocence”

The Nature of Guilt

What was the Hebrew criteria for establishing guilt in a court of law?

Obviously, the criteria for an acceptable witness was to report the truth...in the two sets of accusations in vs. 2 and 5, how are they true, and false?

In v.4, Pilate states that he finds no guilt in Jesus. What is the nature/definition of guilt here? How does guilt apply to the relationship between ourselves and God before and after our justification?

The Nature of Innocence

In Isaiah 53, the prophet states that the Messiah will go silently, like a lamb, to the slaughter. Why else might Jesus stay silent in the face of these accusations and questions?

As with guilt, innocence also has criteria...why did Pilate, and now Herod, not accept any of these charges of the priests and scribes against Jesus?

Although innocent, Jesus had been arrested as a criminal, and charged with punishable crimes. Why was this necessary in the larger scope of our redemption?