

Luke 23:13–25 (ESV)

¹³Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people,

¹⁴and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him.

¹⁵Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him.

¹⁶I will therefore punish and release him.”

¹⁸But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”—

¹⁹a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder.

²⁰Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus,

²¹but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!”

²²A third time he said to them, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.”

²³But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed.

²⁴So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted.

²⁵He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

*“The Passive Obedience of
Christ: Injustice and
Righteousness”*

Acquittal

What was the nature of Pilate’s and Herod’s (and the Sanhedrin’s, 22:66f) acquittal of Jesus? (remember the nature of guilt and innocence from last week’s message)

Part of the message is to see indications in the text of Jesus’ righteousness and guiltlessness. Where do you see this in these verses?

Why is this so important to the Person of Christ, and to our justification?

Insult and Rejection

In the Jews rejection of Jesus here, what is the great insult cast at Him? What is the great tragedy here? (Consider Isaiah 53:3)

Where do you see indications of Jesus’ righteousness and guiltlessness in these verses?

Verse 23 states the crowd’s urgency to have Jesus destroyed. What parallels do you see between what happens here and in the parable of the persistent widow in Luke 18:1f?

Injustice

What is Pilate’s great failure here? What is the great injustice that takes place?

How do you reconcile this greatest of injustices with the sovereignty and sovereign grace of God?