

SERMON NOTES

MAY 4, 2008

“The Jesus Trial”

Bob McCoy

Introduction - on the “politics of God and the politics of man...”

Text - Luke 23:1-25

Main Idea - I’m always amazed by the lack of courage shown by Pilate and Herod. Perhaps they saw Jesus as only a “small player” in the grand scheme of their rule. Oh! The ironies of history...who remembers them now?

So when Luke sits down to write about the Roman legal proceedings against Jesus, he is also thinking of the impending proceedings that will take place against Christians in the middle of the first century (and Christians of all eras!).

I. The Three Acts of the Jesus Trial

A. The Exoneration of Pilate - the False Charges

[1] Subversion

[2] Tax evasion

[3] Sedition

B. The Spectacle of Herod - the Foolish Hope

[1] Jesus as a “spectacle”

[2] Jesus as “joke”

[3] Jesus as a “nobody”

C. The Capitulation of Pilate - the Fatal Compromise

[1] Pilate’s proclamation of Jesus’ innocence

[2] Pilate’s passivity in the face of the crowd

II. The Three Actions of Jesus

A. Speak truth - acting as God’s conscience of the culture

B. Stay silent - acting as God’s presence to power

C. Stand by - being God’s illustrations of evil’s duplicity

Conclusion - on the discipline of defamation