

Telltale Trial

What is a crime so bad that you could condone someone losing their own life to pay for having committed it?

Read Luke 23:1-25.

1. What compelling reasons could Jewish leaders give Pilate to kill Jesus?
 - A. Jesus wants to become “King of the Jews.”
 - B. He causes riots wherever He goes.
 - C. Jesus has never paid the taxes He owes Rome.
 - D. He has a “Messiah complex.”
 - E. Jesus has healed more people than everyone else combined.
 - F. Little children love to hang out with Him.
 - G. Jesus brainwashes people with His charisma—watch out!
 - H. The crowds love Him.
 - I. Other.

2. Why did Pilate publicly announce Christ’s innocence?
 - A. Jesus was innocent.
 - B. Pilate didn’t trust the religious leaders.
 - C. To stop the fickle crowd from supporting the religious leaders.
 - D. Pilate didn’t want a public spectacle in his territory.
 - E. God revealed it to him in a dream.
 - F. John 18:33-38 provides the details of Pilate’s questioning of Jesus.
 - G. Pilate had a keen sense for justice.
 - H. Herod supported Pilate’s assessment that Jesus was innocent.
 - I. Other.

3. What made the religious leaders desperate to have Jesus condemned?
 - A. They felt condemned by Jesus.
 - B. They feared they would lose their temple and nation (John 11:47-53).
 - C. Once they arrested Jesus, they couldn’t let Him go.
 - D. Jewish condemnation wasn’t enough with Rome in control.
 - E. They sensed the crowds switching their allegiance to Jesus.
 - F. The religious leaders were losing their power and authority.
 - G. Jesus was guilty.
 - H. The religious leaders were guilty.
 - I. Other.

4. What part did Herod play in sentencing Jesus to die?

- A. No part.
- B. He didn't make it happen, but he didn't stop it.
- C. As the Roman leader of Galilee, he finally got to talk to Jesus.
- D. He wanted Jesus to put on a magic show.
- E. Herod and Jesus became friends that day.
- F. Herod and Pilate became friends that day.
- G. Herod and the religious leaders became friends that day.
- H. Other.

5. What did this "tell tale trial" reveal?

- A. Pilate had no backbone.
- B. Jesus had no respect for Herod.
- C. The religious leaders remained hell-bent on destroying Jesus.
- D. Jesus had no chance.
- E. Jesus refused supernatural rescue.
- F. The innocent get condemned; the guilty go free.
- G. People cheer "Hosanna" on Sunday shout "crucify him" on Friday.
- H. Barabbas got away with murder because Jesus died in his place.
- I. Other.

6. Who can you relate to in this story?

- _____ Pilate
- _____ Herod
- _____ The religious leaders
- _____ Jesus
- _____ The crowd
- _____ Roman soldiers
- _____ Barabbas
- _____ Invisible disciples
- _____ Other: _____

7. Who are some of the individuals or groups that influence you?

8. When you're treated unfairly, are you more likely to think about yourself, those who treat you unfairly, or Jesus knowing what you're experiencing?