



Pilate's Decision

Luke 23:18-25

Something to Start Us Off

- Can you think of a time when you had to decide something, and you knew that the right choice was terribly unpopular? What was that like?

Something to Notice

Let's start our study by reading **Luke 23:13-16** to remind ourselves what happened there.

Here [after v.16], or after verse 19, some manuscripts add verse 17: *Now he was obliged to release one man to them at the festival* (From the ESV footnotes). This fact is recorded for us in **Matthew 27:15**.

- What do we learn about Barabbas in vv.18-19, the man whose release the crowd demanded?
- Based purely on the words of the text, what does Luke tell us regarding Pilate's opinion of Jesus?

Something to Understand

As the Roman governor, Pilate truly had the responsibility to decide this case and the crowd obviously knew it. If they could influence his decision, they could get the outcome they wanted.

- Let's say you are Pilate in this situation. What is going through your mind?
- How about Barabbas? How would you feel in his position?
- Clearly all that we read about here was part of God's perfect plan. Why do you think these things needed to happen to Jesus?

Something to Take Home

- After looking at this section of Luke 23, do you have any thoughts about what it means to make the right choice when you have a decision to make that affects others?
- Is there anything else this look at Luke 23:18-25 that you especially want to remember for future reference? Can you explain why?