

**Jesus Before Herod Antipas**  
**Luke 23:6-12**

## **Jesus Before Herod Antipas**

**Text:**

**Luke 23:6-12,**

**6. When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilean.**

**7. And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.**

**8. And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.**

**9. Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.**

**10. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.**

**11. And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.**

**12. And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.**

**Commentary:**

**Luke 23:6, 7, When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.**

I. When Pilate learned that Jesus was a Galilean, the jurisdiction of Herod Antipas ...

- A. Only Luke records Jesus' trial before Herod.
- B. Pilate's sending Jesus to Herod was politically astute.
  - 1. It could have gotten Pilate "off the hook," resolved his predicament.
  - 2. It did cement the relations between Herod and Pilate who had been before this time estranged.

II. and when he learned that Herod Antipas was in Jerusalem at that time ...

III. Pilate sent Jesus to Herod.

- A. Pilate tried to "pass the buck." Pilate's authority superseded Herod's authority.
- B. At that time Herod and Pilate were not on the best of terms.

**Luke 23:8, And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.**

- I. Herod was exceptionally happy to have Jesus on trial before him.
  - A. Herod had wanted to see Jesus, this famous preacher, for a long time.
  - B. Herod hoped Jesus would perform some miracle that he could witness.
    - 1. Herod did not doubt that Jesus could perform miracles.

C. Jesus had been warned earlier in his ministry that **“Herod would fain kill thee” (Luke 13:31)** and here Jesus finds himself before this **“fox.”**

1. Herod turned out to be more “bark than bite.”

2. Herod appears to be more interested in seeing miracles Jesus might perform than in seriously harming Jesus.

**Luke 23:9, 10, Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.**

I. Herod questioned Jesus at great length.

A. This Herod had killed John the Baptist.

B. Jesus wouldn't talk to him.

II. Jesus made no response to any question asked by Herod.

A. To reason with a man of Herod's character would have been totally futile.

B. Therefore, Jesus made no answer to Herod's inquisition designed to satisfy his own curiosity.

II. The chief priests and scribes stood before Herod **vehemently** accusing Jesus.

**Luke 23:11, And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.**

I. Herod and his soldiers ridiculed Jesus, showing contempt and disdain for our Lord.

A. Many through the centuries have done as Herod did; that is, set Jesus at naught.

B. Herod, in his wealth and eminence, saw nothing of a criminal nature in the lowly Jesus.

C. However, the only reason we have ever heard of this Herod was his involvement with Jesus and John the Baptist.

II. They mocked Jesus, dressed him in gorgeous apparel (fit for a king) and sent him back to Pilate.

A. How could Jesus die for, forgive people like this.

B. Would we be able to rise to this level of Christ-likeness in similar circumstances?

III. Herod acquitted Jesus and sent him back to Pilate.

**Luke 23:12, And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.**

I. Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on this occasion.

A. The cause of the enmity is not known, but it may have involved Pilate's killing certain Galileans.

**B. Luke 13:1, 2, There were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things?**

C. Pilate's deference to Herod healed the breach between these two rulers.

II. Before this encounter with Jesus Pilate and Herod had been at enmity with each other.

A. Enemies often united in their opposition to Jesus.

B. Herod comes to us through the ages as a most despicable character worthy of neither honor nor respect.

## Jesus Before Herod Antipas

### Questions

1. When \_\_\_\_\_ learned that \_\_\_\_\_ was a \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, he saw an opportunity to “pass the buck,” shirk his duty to free Jesus.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ was glad to see \_\_\_\_\_. He had wanted to see \_\_\_\_\_ for a long time, had heard \_\_\_\_\_ of him and \_\_\_\_\_ to see some \_\_\_\_\_ performed.

3. Is this the Herod who killed John the Baptist? If not, differentiate these two men. \_\_\_\_\_

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4. \_\_\_\_\_, and sent him back to \_\_\_\_\_. Ridicule can really hurt.

5. Because of Pilate’s referring Jesus to Herod, they became \_\_\_\_\_: before they were at \_\_\_\_\_ between themselves.