

The Gospel According to Luke

Luke 22:63-23:1

Reading: Matthew 26:57-27:2

Parallel Passages: Matthew 26:67-27:2, Mark 14:65-15:1 and John 18:28

Sermon #99

November 1, 2020

What Further Testimony Do We Need?

Let me begin by praying for our time focused on the Word of God and what it means for our lives.

My beloved, last week, we saw the Roman cohort along with the scribes and elders bind Jesus and take Him to Annas the former high priest for what today is called a “Kangaroo Court”. A kangaroo court as defined by Webster, as a court that ignores recognized standards of law or justice. It is a court characterized by irresponsible, unauthorized, or irregular status or procedures. A kangaroo court ignores due process to come to a predetermined conclusion. This Kangaroo Court had 3 levels.

So next, Annas had Jesus taken to Caiaphas, his son-in-law, the current high priest for further questioning in the 2nd phase of this Kangaroo Court. In the midst of these two false trials, Peter was cowering in the shadows making his three denials. At the third denial, the rooster crowed and Peter saw the Lord looking straight at him and he remembered everything Jesus had said and Peter ran away weeping and repenting, not because of judgment in the eyes of Jesus, but because Peter saw love. Satan’s sifting and Jesus’ steadfast love had produced within Peter a humble and contrite heart. May this be true of us also.

In our text today we go to yet another illegal trial and at this trial we are shown the four titles for Jesus; the divine Lord, the Christ, the Son of Man, and the Son of God. I pray we learn what each name means and how each demands our

allegiance. We will also learn today how we should handle ourselves in a world that rejects the truth of God.

The truth I want you to grab onto from our time in God's Word this morning is; ***Jesus is both fully God and fully man, so to slander Jesus is to commit blasphemy against God.***

One great sin we must fight against is to think that we are the authority over God, which is what the men presiding over Jesus' trial did. When we state it like that, we all probably would deny the suggestion, we would never think of ourselves as having authority over God. However, "Do we ever disregard God's Word? Do we ever do something God has clearly said not to do? Do we ever not do something God has told us we should be doing?" These are all indicators that when we sin, we are disregarding God and placing ourselves over Him.

At times, when we disregard God, believe it or not, we still expect God should answer to us - even though we are not living as His children. We may read God's Word and tell ourselves that this cannot mean what it says, because it is convicting and so, we say, I will act according to what I think or want God to say. To think that God should answer to us is a great sin and one that affects all areas of our lives. To be the judge over God is extreme self-centeredness and the height of human depravity. This is exactly what has been going on the night before our Lord's crucifixion. Sinful men acting as judge and jury over the Creator God. They were saying that Jesus had broken their laws and was deserving to die as a result. This is the same sin many religious leaders and churches are doing today when they interrupt the Word of God how they want it and not as God has given it; for they have agendas with predetermined outcomes. They make a mockery of Christ and the Word of God and this is blasphemy. Again, let me ask, do you ever place yourself

over God and act as His judge? You might quickly respond, “No”. But, think about it, have you ever read what the Bible says and understood it and yet, disregarded it?

In our text today, I want you to notice with me a few things. In this false trial, this mockery of justice, where sinners were pronouncing the death sentence on the King of heaven, we observe a few very important things about Jesus: He is divine; He is the Christ, He is the Son of Man, and He is the Son of God. We also come to understand that left to our own ways, in the absence of Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we would be right there, condemning God along with all the others.

Now, please stand for the reading of God’s Holy Word and all it means for us as a community of God at Canyon Bible.

Jesus: The Divine (v. 63-65)

We now read about human nature running amuck. This is how each one of us, prior to our conversion, would treat Jesus without God’s restraining grace. This Kangaroo Court, this mistreatment came as no surprise to Jesus. He knew all along what would happen. Reading at verse 63, “**Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking him as they beat him.** ⁶⁴ **They also blindfolded him and kept asking him, ‘Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?’** ⁶⁵ **And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him.”** Jesus had spoken to His disciples earlier that this would happen and for the 3rd time predicted his death and what would happen leading up to His crucifixion, jumping back to Luke 18, at verse 31, “**See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.** ³² **For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon.”** Jesus continues saying after He is treated horribly, he would be turned over to the Romans. Jesus said the Romans, ³³ “**after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.”**

Jesus the incarnate God knew exacting what would happen. Remember God foretold all of this would happen 700 year's prior and it would happen by the hand of God's chosen people to establish God's new covenant and His new people through His Son. Reading from Isaiah chapter 53, which is not allowed to be read in Synagogues, reading the verses out of order beginning at verse 6, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." The Jewish nation had walked away from God; this allowed them to murder Jesus for what they perceived as right for them and thus what they determined God would want. God had His plan to correct these wrong actions, as we now read verses 4 and 5, "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; **upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.**" It is because of the life Jesus led as the incarnate God, fully God and fully Man and because of these events even before the cross that enables Jesus to be our sympathetic High Priest. He can relate to us when we are mistreated by others. Never think that our Lord cannot show sympathy. Our mistreatment will never come close to what He experienced, but He did experience abuse and rejection by those who were supposed to seek after God and live the Scriptures. Picture in your mind, here stands the divine Son of God, in regal silence, innocent of any wrong – blindfolded with spittle and blood running down his face. Without a sound, without protest Jesus stood there, for your sake, for your salvation and He took every blow, every disgrace as His mockers laughed and abused Him – it was all for the salvation of mankind – it was all for me and for you.

Luke says something here I do not want us to overlook, in verse 65 we read, "And they said many other things against him, blaspheming him." The word "*blasphemeo*" is the Greek word, which denotes a very particular type of slander. In

English we would say, to “blaspheme” meaning is to speak wrongly about God or to speak against God. It is impossible, by the mere definition of the word for someone to blaspheme a man. Blasphemy can only be against God. Luke says they were blaspheming Jesus. Do you see the point? The point is that Luke tells us that the slander the tormentors were shouting at Jesus qualified as blasphemy only because Jesus is God. If Jesus were only a man then this slander could not be called blasphemy. Luke believed Jesus to be God; the Christ. Jesus is our divine Lord. He is not created - He is God the Creator.

Jesus: The Christ (v. 66-68)

After a night of false testimony and abuse, daybreak has arrived, look with me at verse 66 to 68, “When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together, both chief priests and scribes. And they led him away to their council, and they said, ⁶⁷ ‘If you are the Christ, tell us.’ But he said to them, ‘If I tell you, you will not believe, ⁶⁸ and if I ask you, you will not answer.’” Jesus is taken before the Sanhedrin; Jerusalem’s ruling council. Jesus has already been blindfolded and beaten mercilessly. The strange thing is that the court system of the Jews was a very good system. By Jewish law, the courts are to consider a person innocent until proven guilty. A person awaiting trial was not to be mistreated. If any errors were made, there were safeguards in place that would cause the courts to err on the side of mercy. However, here, things were different - it is a Kangaroo Court. One example legal abuse that was clearly overlooked in Jesus’ case was that if a person had committed a crime deserving the death penalty, they would be given three additional days after sentencing just in case new evidence would be found exonerating them. While walking to the place of execution, someone would walk ahead to crying out, “If anyone knows any reason this man should not be put to death please come forward now.” All these safeguards and many others were

conveniently overlooked in the case of Jesus. Another problem was that the ruling judge over the case could never ask the defendant to condemn himself. They listened to evidence and never asked the one on trial any questions like Jesus was asked. The council asks Jesus if He claims to be the Christ? This is, “Do You claim to be the long-awaited Messiah”? This question violates the law.

Luke has spent his Gospel explaining to us who Jesus is. Jesus will not die until He tells those listening one more time from His own lips, when asked, “**If you are the Christ, tell us.**” To be the Christ or Messiah means anointed One of God. The Messiah or anointed One is the Savior that God has promised to send. The name Messiah or Christ also carries with it, Kingly overtones. The Messiah will be the King of Israel. We will examine Jesus’ answer shortly.

Quickly let’s go back to the beginning; Luke has shown us that Jesus is the King and the Messiah. Returning to the 2nd chapter of Luke, ¹¹ “**For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is **Christ the Lord.**** ¹² **And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’** ¹³ **And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,** ¹⁴ **‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!’** ¹⁵ **When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’** ¹⁶ **And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.** ¹⁷ **And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.** ¹⁸ **And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.** ¹⁹ **But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.** ²⁰ **And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”** (Luke 2:11-20) Soon afterward Joseph and Mary took the baby Jesus to

the temple for His dedication, ²⁵ “Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.” (Luke 2:25-26) Even though Peter denied Jesus out of fear this night, when Jesus asked earlier, **“But who do you say that I am?”** Peter answered, **“The Christ of God.”** (Luke 9:20) So, we have declarations that Jesus is the Christ from angels, shepherds, Simeon, Peter and many others, but the council of priests because of their arrogance and blinded hearts ask, ⁶⁷ **“If you are the Christ, tell us.”** Testimony of the prophets, miracle after miracle, testimony of many during the ministry of Jesus, the teaching of God’s Word as none had done before; how much evidence was needed – for the Sanhedrin and the Pharisees there would never had been enough evidence. Through all this injustice, I am amazed by Jesus’ calm response, **“If I tell you, you will not believe”**. Jesus was making a clear point, the evidence is before you and you know it well, for you have investigated me and if I asked you what the evidence revealed, as verse 68 says, **“you will not answer.”** Their ambition had hardened their hearts and opened them to the plans of Satan and they no longer sought-after God, but the things of this world and the prince of this world.

How different was the response of John the Baptist! Reading out of Luke chapter 7, ¹⁸ **“The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹ calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’ ²⁰ And when the men had come to him, they said, ‘John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”’ ²¹ In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²² And he answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the**

dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.²³ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” (v. 18-23) John the Baptist believed to the point of confronting King Herod with his sin and giving his life in belief that Jesus was the Christ. But this night now turned to morning, Jesus knew that the minds of the chief priest and Sanhedrin were fixed and no amount of real evidence would alter their decision.

This brings the same question, the most critical question, to each of us this morning; we must ask ourselves, after we have read through Luke’s account and seen the evidence, **do we believe?** Do we believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, the Anointed One who has come from God the Father bringing with Him salvation for sinners? Do you believe in your heart and mind to the point after sinning and repentance and forgiveness, like Peter, who was humbled, would you give your life for Jesus the Christ? Search your heart and answer sincerely.

Jesus: The Son of Man (v. 69)

Let me quickly get to my next point; Jesus Christ is the Son of Man. Reading verse 69, Jesus states, **“But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”** **“Son of Man”** is the name most often Jesus gave Himself, as found 83 times in the New Testament. As a couple of examples look with me in Luke. First chapter 5, Jesus tells the scribes and Pharisees,²⁴ **“But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—‘I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.’**²⁵ **And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God.”** Only the Son of Man performed multiple true miracles. Secondly, we go to chapter 6 of Luke and we read,⁵ **“The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”** Jesus is Lord over our worship every day and over the Sabbath. Here we observe just 2 reasons of the significance of the title Jesus used

for himself. To understand even more deeply we go to the Book of Daniel, chapter 7, where Daniel declares, ¹³“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a **son of man**, and he came to the Ancient of Days (*God the Father*) and was presented before him. ¹⁴And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.” What Daniel saw were various kingdoms and kings throughout history. But then there came One whose kingdom will never end. Some of the points we are to connect here is when Jesus declares that He is the “**Son of Man**” – He is referring to Daniel and what God the Father had revealed; Jesus is given dominion, glory, and a kingdom that is eternal. Jesus is the One to which all peoples, nations and languages will come to serve. He is the One who has an everlasting dominion and whose kingdom will never pass away. When Jesus said this, all these religious men knew that not only was He claiming Messiahship but also claiming to be God. That is why they ask Him the next question.

Jesus: The Son of God (v. 22:70 to 23:2)

They knew Jesus was claiming divine power by telling them that He is the fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy. The bottom line here is this - Jesus claimed to be God’s Son which means He claims be deity, He is One with God the Father. Reading Luke at verse 70, “So they all said, ‘Are you the Son of God, then?’ And he said to them, ‘You say that I am.’ ⁷¹ Then they said, ‘What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.’” Jesus was not the only One making this claim 34 times either Jesus or others declared He was the Son of God. Luke made this clear in chapter 1, where the angel Gabriel said to Mary, ³²“He will be great and will be called the **Son of the Most High**. And the **Lord God** will give to him the throne of his father David.” (Luke 1:32) Two of the many other times we

have this title, Son of God confirmed; first, at Jesus' baptism in Luke 3:22, when God said from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." and secondly, at Jesus' transfiguration in Luke 9:35, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!"

When asked the question, Jesus' reply seems a little confusing. However, scholars have determined that this was a form of speech often used in Jesus' day. The commentator Leon Morris explains it like this: "It's as if Jesus said, 'I wouldn't put it like that, but since you did, I can't deny it.'" Those questioning Jesus understand that He answered in the affirmative.

Why would His claiming to be the Son of God be considered blasphemy and be worthy of a death sentence? The Jewish leaders understood exactly what Jesus meant by the phrase "Son of God." To be the Son of God is to be of the same nature as God. The Son of God is "of God or the same essence as God." The claim to be of the same nature as God — is to claim in fact to be God and this claim was blasphemy to the Jewish leaders; therefore, they demanded Jesus' death, in keeping with Leviticus chapter 24, if one blasphemes God the congregation lays hands upon his head and pronounce his sentence of death and then stone them. However, the evidence verified Jesus was the Christ, but the evidence did not matter.

The council responded in outrage as Jesus made His claim to be the Son of God. What is ironic is that by His response, they declare that Jesus is guilty of blasphemy. Remember, blasphemy is slandering God. Therefore, their very actions declare - Jesus is God. Jesus was speaking the truth when He declared who He really is and they accused Him of slandering God. Remember early on in the text where Luke reports that in their abuse and verbal slander of Jesus, they were actually the ones committing blasphemy. At this point in their blind hatred, "the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. ² And they began to accuse him,

saying, ‘We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.’” They did not even have the conviction to follow through with what they had done and desired – they were cowards.

Let me back up, for I want us to consider the final question of this council, this Kangaroo Court, this question found in verse 71 is where the title of the sermon came from, they ask each other, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips.” My beloved, what further testimony do we need? We too have heard from God’s Holy Word what Jesus has said. Are you convinced beyond all doubt that Jesus is who He said He is?

Do we understand, not just intellectually, but with our whole being that to disobey Jesus is to disobey God? To disobey the teachings of the Bible is to disobey God. To disobey God is to place ourselves above God and this is sin. God has given us everything we need to believe; His Word, His Son and His Holy Spirit – to reject these is to blaspheme God. May this never be said of us. May we declare with our very lives - Jesus is the Christ, He is our Lord and Savior. May we take to heart what God the Father said at the Transfiguration, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” (Luke 9:35) My beloved, I call upon all of us to bow down in humility and in worship and live for the glory of Christ! Amen!