

Family Study Notes

Luke 22:63-71 and Luke 23:1-25 (KJV)

These study notes are designed to help families prepare their hearts and minds before hearing the sermon on **The Trial of Jesus**. The goal is not to master every detail beforehand, but to become familiar with the passage, notice its weight, and be ready to hear what God reveals through the preached Word. This section of Luke shows both the sin of man and the righteousness of Christ with unusual clarity.

As you prepare, remember that the trial of Jesus is not merely a sad historical episode. It reveals who Jesus is, how deeply fallen human beings are, and how God used even wicked injustice to accomplish salvation. Families can read these notes together, talk through the questions, and pray that the Lord would give humility, understanding, and faith.

Passage for Preparation

The main sermon text appears to be:

- **Luke 22:63-71 (KJV)**
- **Luke 23:1-25 (KJV)**

If time allows, it would also help to read the parallel material mentioned in the sermon notes:

- **John 18:19-23 (KJV)**
- **John 18:28-38 (KJV)**
- **Matthew 26:57-68 (KJV)**
- **1 Corinthians 15:3 (KJV)**
- **Daniel 7:13 (KJV)**
- **Psalms 110:1 (KJV)**
- **1 Timothy 6:13-14 (KJV)**

Reading these passages ahead of time will help the family see that Jesus' trial was both a real historical event and a deeply theological one.

Main Idea to Watch For

The heart of the sermon is that **Jesus was tried and condemned as a criminal, though He was innocent, and in that unjust condemnation God was accomplishing the salvation**

of His people. The passage shows that Jesus was not a lawbreaker. His accusers were. He was not guilty. They were. Yet He willingly stood in the place where judgment fell.

This means the trial of Jesus is important for more than historical interest. It helps us understand the cross itself. Jesus did not die by accident, by illness, by old age, or by random violence. He died under a judicial sentence. He was condemned in a courtroom setting, first by Jewish leaders and then by Roman authority. That matters because the New Testament explains His death in judicial terms. He bore judgment so that guilty sinners might be acquitted before God.

Historical Flow of the Trial

Luke explains that there were several stages in the trial of Jesus, not just one moment. Seeing that sequence will help families follow the message more carefully when it is preached.

- Jesus was first brought before **Annas** for a preliminary hearing.
- He was then examined before **Caiaphas and the Jewish council** during the night.
- At daybreak, He was brought before the **Sanhedrin** for the formal legal proceeding.
- After that, He was taken to **Pilate**, the Roman governor.
- Pilate sent Him to **Herod**, who mocked Him and sent Him back.
- Pilate then yielded to pressure and sentenced Jesus to die.

This sequence shows that many people were involved in rejecting Christ. It also shows how determined His enemies were to secure His death as quickly as possible.

When your family hears the sermon, listen for how each stage reveals another layer of human sin. The religious leaders twist justice. The guards mock and abuse. Herod treats Christ as entertainment. Pilate knows Jesus is innocent, yet condemns Him anyway. At every level, the righteousness of Jesus stands in contrast to the corruption of men.

Key Truths in the Passage

Several major truths rise out of Luke's account. Families can keep these in mind as they read the text.

- **Jesus is innocent.** Even His enemies fail to produce a legitimate case against Him.
- **The Jewish leaders are the real lawbreakers.** They violate justice while pretending to defend it.

- **Pilate is a picture of political cowardice.** He knows what is right, but refuses to do it.
- **Jesus clearly claims to be the Messiah and the Son of God.** His death is tied directly to His true identity.
- **The trial exposes unbelief.** The issue is not lack of evidence, but hardness of heart.
- **God is sovereign over the whole event.** Human wickedness does not frustrate God's saving purpose.
- **Jesus dies under condemnation so that sinners may be justified.**

These truths should shape the way the family reads this section. This is not just a lesson about bad leaders in the ancient world. It is a revelation of what sinful humanity does with the Son of God, and of how God turns even that evil into the means of redemption.

Important Themes to Notice

1. The Innocence of Christ

Christ's life must be considered alongside His trial. When we study His life, we see wisdom, compassion, power, righteousness, and truth. Even His enemies could not establish a legitimate charge against Him. That makes His condemnation all the more shocking.

As a family, notice how often innocence is affirmed. Pilate repeatedly says he finds no fault in Jesus. Herod does not condemn Him. The problem is not that Jesus has done evil. The problem is that sinful men hate the truth.

2. The Hatred and Unbelief of Man

The notes emphasize that the scribes and Pharisees were not neutral judges. They had already opposed Jesus with envy, rejection, and hostility. Their trial was not a sincere search for truth. It was a determined effort to destroy the One who exposed them.

This matters for families because it teaches a sobering lesson. People do not always reject Christ because His claims are unclear. Often they reject Him because His claims are too clear. Jesus forces a verdict. If He truly is the Messiah, the Son of God, and the King, then every person must bow before Him.

3. The Judicial Nature of Jesus' Death

Jesus' death was judicial. He was condemned by recognized earthly authorities. That historical fact matches the theological meaning of the cross. The language of the New Testament includes guilt, condemnation, justification, and acquittal.

Families should listen carefully for this point in the sermon. Jesus was not dying for His own sins. He had none. He was condemned outwardly as a transgressor, but inwardly and truly He was the sinless One. The injustice of His earthly trial points us to the wonder of God's saving plan: the innocent One bears judgment so that the guilty may go free.

4. The True Identity of Jesus

The notes make clear that the central issue of the trial is the identity of Christ. The great question is, **"Art thou the Christ?"** Jesus answers in a way that affirms He is indeed the Messiah, the Son of Man, and the Son of God. The words in Luke are connected to **Daniel 7:13 (KJV)** and **Psalms 110:1 (KJV)**, showing that Jesus understood Himself as the promised exalted ruler.

This means the trial is not simply about whether Jesus is misunderstood. It is about whether His claims are true. Stress the point that there is no safe middle ground. If Jesus is lying, He is not a good man. If He is deluded, He is not a wise teacher. But if He speaks the truth, then He is Lord.

5. The Contrast Between Jesus and Barabbas

The passage reaches a painful irony when Barabbas is released and Jesus is condemned. Barabbas is actually guilty of sedition and murder, while Jesus is innocent. Yet the guilty man goes free and the innocent man is delivered over.

This is not only a historical irony. It also pictures the gospel. The guilty are released while the righteous One suffers. Families should think carefully about what that means. In salvation, we are more like Barabbas than we often want to admit.

Key People in the Passage

Understanding the main figures will help children and adults alike follow the sermon.

- **Jesus:** the innocent Son of God, falsely accused, yet faithful in His confession.
- **The Jewish leaders:** the elders, chief priests, and scribes who seek His death.
- **The guards:** men who mock and abuse Jesus.
- **Pilate:** the Roman governor who knows Jesus is innocent but yields to pressure.
- **Herod:** a wicked ruler who mocks Jesus and treats the matter lightly.
- **Barabbas:** a guilty man released in the place of Jesus.

As a family, think about how each person or group responds to Christ. Some are violent. Some are cynical. Some are politically cowardly. Some are openly hateful. Yet Jesus remains steady, truthful, and composed throughout.

Words and Ideas to Understand

A few terms you will hear in the sermon. Prepare your family ahead of time to understand their meaning.

- **Messiah / Christ:** God's promised Anointed One and King.
- **Sanhedrin:** the Jewish ruling council.
- **Blasphemy:** speaking against God in a way judged to dishonor Him.
- **Judicial:** related to law, court, judgment, or legal sentence.
- **Justification:** God's declaring sinners righteous through Christ.
- **Condemnation:** a sentence of guilt and judgment.
- **Sedition:** stirring up rebellion against governing authority.

Knowing these words will make the sermon easier to follow and will help younger listeners pay attention more fruitfully.

Family Discussion Questions Before the Sermon

These questions are meant to open the passage up, not to turn preparation into a test. Let the family discuss them simply and honestly.

1. Why is it important that Jesus did not die by accident, but under an official sentence?
2. What does this passage show us about the hearts of Jesus' accusers?
3. Why does Pilate's conduct seem especially sinful in this account?
4. What do Jesus' answers tell us about who He claimed to be?
5. Why is there no neutral response to Jesus?
6. What stands out most to you about the contrast between Jesus and Barabbas?
7. How does this passage help us understand the meaning of the cross?
8. What does Jesus' calm and truthful witness teach believers today?

After discussing these questions, remind one another that the purpose is not merely to collect information. It is to prepare to hear Christ preached with reverence and faith.

Questions for Younger Children

If you are preparing children, simpler questions may help them engage the text.

1. Did Jesus do anything wrong?
2. Were the men judging Jesus fair and honest?
3. Who knew Jesus was innocent but still sent Him to die?
4. Who was released instead of Jesus?
5. What does this teach us about how much Jesus suffered for sinners?

Keep the conversation plain and gentle. The aim is to help children see both the innocence of Christ and the seriousness of sin.

What Families Should Listen For in the Sermon

As the sermon is preached, listen for a few major lines of emphasis. These will likely help you follow the message closely.

- How the preacher explains the different stages of Jesus' trial.
- How the trial reveals the guilt of the Jewish leaders and of Pilate.
- How Jesus' own words confirm His identity as Messiah and Son of God.
- How the judicial setting connects to the doctrine of justification.
- How Christ's innocent suffering secures salvation for guilty sinners.
- How believers should follow Christ's example of faithful confession.

If your family listens for these themes, the sermon will likely become clearer and more memorable.

Suggested Prayer Before the Sermon

Lord, open our eyes to see the innocence, majesty, and faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Help us to understand the wickedness of sinful men and the wonder of Your saving purpose. Prepare our hearts to hear Your Word with humility, seriousness, and faith. Teach us through the trial of Jesus to love the truth, to stand for what is right, and to rest in the Savior who was condemned so that sinners might be forgiven. In Jesus' name, amen.

Takeaway for the Family

If these study notes are utilized rightly, the family should come to the sermon expecting to see three things clearly: **the innocence of Christ, the guilt of man, and the sovereignty of God in salvation**. Jesus stands in the place of condemnation, not because He deserves it, but because He came to save His people.

Come ready to hear the account with reverence. This is not only the story of what men did to Jesus. It is also the story of what God was doing for sinners through Him.