

School of the Word 2018

God has visited his people (Luke 7:16)

Taking another look at Luke's Jesus

Kieran J. O'Mahony, OSA

www.tarsus.ie

(5) The death of the Prophet Messiah, Luke 22:63-23:56

Programme

1. Luke: a (re-)introduction
2. Setting the scene: Luke 4:14-30
3. Teaching in parables: Luke 18:1-8
4. Prayer in Luke's Gospel
5. The death of the Prophet Messiah Luke 22:63-23:56
6. On the road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35
7. *Getting ready for Christmas (Luke 1-2)*
8. *Getting ready for Christmas (Luke 1-2)*

Sequence

- Four stories of the death
- Where are we in Luke?
- Luke 23
- Luke's teaching
- Prayer

Four stories

- Mark: the tragic Son of God
- Matthew: Jesus' death as the turn of the age
- Luke: Jesus a prophet and martyr
- John: Jesus as the Word, revealing God's glory

Where are we in Luke?

Luke 1-4	Preparation
Luke 5-9	Ministry in Galilee
Luke 10-19	Road to Jerusalem
Luke 20-24	Saving events in the Holy City

- Two tasks:
- Without looking: write down what you remember about the trial and death of Jesus
- Then, 9 groups each looking at one part of the story – to notice things and ask questions
- Then: sharing what we remembered

1. Luke 22:63-71 Jesus before the Jewish leaders
2. Luke 23:1-5 Jesus before Pilate
3. Luke 23:6-12 Jesus before Herod
4. Luke 23:13-25 Jesus sentenced
5. Luke 23:26-31 Jesus and the women of Jerusalem
6. Luke 23: 32-38 The mocking
7. Luke 23:39-43 The Good Thief
8. Luke 23:44-49 The death of Jesus
9. Luke 23:50-56 The burial of Jesus

GROUP 1

Luke 22:63 Now the men who were holding Jesus under guard began to mock him and beat him. **64** They blindfolded him and asked him repeatedly, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" **65** They also said many other things against him, reviling him.

Luke 22:66 When day came, the council of the elders of the people gathered together, both the chief priests and the experts in the law. Then they led Jesus away to their council **67** and said, "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. **69** But from now on *the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.*" **70** So they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?" He answered them, "You say that I am." **71** Then they said, "Why do we need further testimony? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"

GROUP 2

Luke 23:1 Then the whole group of them rose up and brought Jesus before Pilate. **2** They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man subverting our nation, forbidding us to pay the tribute tax to Caesar and claiming that he himself is Christ, a king." **3** So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He replied, "You say so." **4** Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." **5** But they persisted in saying, "He incites the people by teaching throughout all Judea. It started in Galilee and ended up here!"

GROUP 3

Luke 23:6 Now when Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. **7** When he learned that he was from Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who also happened to be in Jerusalem at that time. **8** When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some miraculous sign. **9** So Herod questioned him at considerable length; Jesus gave him no answer. **10** The chief priests and the experts in the law were there, vehemently accusing him. **11** Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, dressing him in elegant clothes, Herod sent him back to Pilate. **12** That very day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other, for prior to this they had been enemies.

GROUP 4

Luke 23:13 Then Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, **14** and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. When I examined him before you, I did not find this man guilty of anything you accused him of doing. **15** Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, he has done nothing deserving death. **16** I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

Luke 23:18 But they all shouted out together, "Take this man away! Release Barabbas for us!" **19** (This was a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city, and for murder.) **20** Pilate addressed them once again because he wanted to release Jesus. **21** But they kept on shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" **22** A third time he said to them, "Why? What wrong has he done? I have found him guilty of no crime deserving death. I will therefore flog him and release him." **23** But they were insistent, demanding with loud shouts that he be crucified. And their shouts prevailed. **24** So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. **25** He released the man they asked for, who had been thrown in prison for insurrection and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will

GROUP 5

Luke 23:26 As they led him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country. They placed the cross on his back and made him carry it behind Jesus. **27** A great number of the people followed him, among them women who were mourning and wailing for him. **28** But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. **29** For

this is certain: The days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore children, and the breasts that never nursed!' **30** Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' **31** For if such things are done when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

GROUP 6

Luke 23:32 Two other criminals were also led away to be executed with him. **33** So when they came to the place that is called "The Skull," they crucified him there, along with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. **34** [But Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."] Then *they threw dice to divide his clothes.* **35** The people also stood there watching, but the rulers ridiculed him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, his chosen one!" **36** The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, **37** and saying, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!" **38** There was also an inscription over him, "This is the king of the Jews."

GROUP 7

Luke 23:39 One of the criminals who was hanging there railed at him, saying, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" **40** But the other rebuked him, saying, "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? **41** And we rightly so, for we are getting what we deserve for what we did, but this man has done nothing wrong." **42** Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." **43** And Jesus said to him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

GROUP 8

Luke 23:44 It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, **45** because the sun's light failed. The temple curtain was torn in two. **46** Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, *into your hands I commit my spirit!*" And after he said this he breathed his last.

Luke 23:47 Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent!" **48** And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. **49** And all those who knew Jesus stood at a distance, and the women who had followed him from Galilee saw these things.

GROUP 9

Luke 23:50 Now there was a man named Joseph who was a member of the council, a good and righteous man. **51** (He had not consented to their plan and action.) He was from the Judean town of Arimathea, and was looking forward to the kingdom of God. **52** He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. **53** Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and placed it in a tomb cut out of the rock, where no one had yet been buried. **54** It was the day of preparation and the Sabbath was beginning. **55** The women who had accompanied Jesus from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. **56** Then they returned and prepared aromatic spices and perfumes.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Mark	Luke
	Accusations: he perverts our nation, forbids tribute to Caesar; calls himself Christ, a king.
"Are you the king of the Jews"	"Are you the king of the Jews"
-	Jesus: "So you say" Pilate: "No crime"
-	Jesus sent to Herod who returns him. Pilate: "no crime."
Barabbas	Barabbas
"Crucify him!"	"Crucify him!" Pilate: "no crime."
Jesus scourged and handed over.	Jesus delivered up to their will.
Jesus mocked with crown of thorns.	-
Simon of Cyrene carries cross.	Simon of Cyrene carries cross.
-	Women of Jerusalem weep for Jesus.

Mark	Luke
They came to Golgotha.	They came to Skull Place.
They crucified him.	Crucified him and two criminals on right and left.
-	Jesus: "Father, forgive them."
Cast lots for his clothes. Third hour	Cast lots for his clothes.
"The King of the Jews."	-
Two brigands then crucified on right and left of Jesus.	-
Passersby mock Jesus.	People watch.
Chief priests & scribes mock him.	Rulers scoff at Jesus.
-	Soldiers mock Jesus, offering vinegar.
-	"This is the King of the Jews"
Jesus reviled by others crucified.	One convict repents; "Paradise today!"

Mark	Luke
Sixth hour brings darkness.	Sixth hour brings darkness.
-	Sun eclipsed ; Temple curtain torn.
"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani!"	Jesus screams & says, "Father, to you I commend my spirit"
Elijah? Sour wine thought of, but not given	
Jesus screams and breathes his last.	He breathes his last.
Temple curtain torn.	-
Centurion: "God's Son!"	Centurion: "He was innocent!"
-	Crowd leaves beating breasts in sorrow
Four women see all from afar.	All Jesus' acquaintances and the women stand at a distance.

Mark	Luke
Joseph of Arimathea, a council member, asks Pilate for the body.	Joseph of Arimathea, a council member who opposed their action , asks Pilate for the body.
Pilate checks on death of Jesus.	-
Body wrapped in shroud.	Body wrapped in shroud.
Rock tomb.	Unused rock tomb.
Stone against door.	Day of Preparation.
Mary Magdalene & Mary (Josés' mother) observe the tomb.	Women from Galilee observe tomb.

Teaching of Luke

Acts 7:54 When they heard these things, they became **furious** and ground their teeth at him. **55** But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently toward heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at **the right hand of God**. **56** "Look!" he said. "I see the heavens opened, and the **Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!**" **57** But they covered their ears, shouting out with a **loud voice**, and rushed at him with one intent. **58** When they had driven him **out of the city**, they began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul. **59** They continued to stone Stephen while he prayed, "**Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!**" **60** Then he fell to his knees and cried out with a loud voice, "**Lord, do not hold this sin against them!**" When he had said this, he died.

- Jesus, God's **prophet martyr** (lit. witness)
- Jesus is **innocent** (Pilate, Herod, Jesus, the Good Thief, the centurion)
- Jesus "dispenses" gifts: **reconciliation** (Pilate and Herod), **consolation** (the women), **forgiveness** (the soldiers), **life after death** (the Good Thief)
- Jesus prays a **prayer** of trust at the end
- Effect of Jesus death: on the centurion (**glorifies God**), on the crowds (**conversion**), on the disciples (**contemplating**)
- Notice: no theology of atonement, punishment or substitution
- Rather: Jesus dies as a faithful prophet and true witness
- Instead: the disclosure of the mercy of God to all
- Romans 3:21-26 can help here

Rom 3:21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God (which is attested by the law and the prophets) has been disclosed- **22** namely, the righteousness of God through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. **24** But they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

25 God publicly displayed him at his death as the mercy seat accessible through faith. This was to demonstrate his righteousness, because God in his forbearance had passed over the sins previously committed. **26** This was also to demonstrate his righteousness in the present time, so that he would be just and the justifier of the one who lives because of Jesus' faithfulness.

Prayer

O God of eternal glory,
you anointed Jesus your servant
to bring us your forgiveness
to encourage the weary,
to raise up and restore the fallen.

Keep before our eyes
the paschal mystery of Christ
and, by our sharing in his passion and resurrection,
may we come to know today his love in our lives.

