

Mob Rule

Luke 23.13-25

Jesus – suffered under Pontius Pilate

1. Jesus wasn't guilty of any capital crime

- ***he was declared innocent three times by Pilate vs 4,13-15,22***
- ***how should we react to miscarriages of justice?***

God is just and wants justice upheld
Is 30.18; 61.8; Amos 5.24;
Exodus 23.6-7

- ⇒ ***suffering is part of living in a fallen world***
- ⇒ ***faith is essential in the face of miscarriages of justice Is 50.6-8***
Psalm 135.14; 1 Peter 2.23; 4.19
- ⇒ ***praise will often be the right response Acts 5.40-41***
- ⇒ ***protest may be appropriate for upholding the rule of law Ac 16.35-39***

2. Pilate was guilty of bowing to the pressure of a baying crowd

- **contrast Peter and Pilate**
three denials, three defences
- **Pilate wanted to release Jesus v20**
he knew the leaders' envy Mt 27.18
his wife's dream warned him Mt 27.19
- **Pilate tried three rouses**
he tried to pass the buck v7
he tried to appease the crowd v16
he suggested a prisoner exchange v18
- **Pilate renounced responsibility**
Mat 27.24,26
he caved in to pressure v22-23
he surrendered Jesus v25
- **contrast Jesus and Pilate**
"not my will, but yours"
22.42; Mark 15.15

3. The Crowd was guilty **of wanting the wrong man**

- ***a convicted criminal***
instead of an innocent victim
Mark 15.17; Mat 27.20
- ***don't be swayed by the crowd***
stand up for what's right
- and for Jesus
- ***the Gospel in miniature***
Jesus going to his death
so the guilty could be set free
Gen 50.20; John 12.23-24