

Luke 23:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people,

Analysis

Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people—Having received Jesus back from Herod, Pilate assembles a public tribunal. The threefold designation (chief priests, rulers, people) represents all strata of Jewish society, emphasizing the collective nature of the rejection. The Greek *synkalesámenos* (having called together) suggests formal convening, indicating Pilate's attempt to resolve this matter publicly and decisively.

This assembly fulfills Jesus's prophecy in 18:32 that he would be 'delivered unto the Gentiles'—now both Gentile (Pilate) and Jewish authorities gather to determine his fate. Pilate's strategy is political: by including 'the people' (*ton laon*), he seeks to diffuse responsibility and potentially build support for releasing Jesus. Yet this gathering will become the scene of the people's choice of Barabbas over Christ, the criminal over the Savior—humanity's archetypal rejection of God's provision.

Historical Context

Roman governors typically held court (tribunal) in public spaces. Pilate likely convened this assembly at the Praetorium (his Jerusalem residence, possibly Herod's palace or the Fortress Antonia). Public proceedings served both legal transparency and political calculation—Pilate needed to demonstrate that he had thoroughly investigated the charges while gauging popular sentiment during the volatile Passover season.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Pilate's public assembly demonstrate that Jesus's rejection was not merely by a few leaders but by representative humanity?
2. What does the inclusion of 'the people' in this gathering teach us about corporate responsibility and individual choice in responding to Christ?

Interlinear Text

Πιλάτος	δὲ	συγκαλεσάμενος	τοὺς	ἀρχιερεῖς	καὶ
Pilate	And	when he had called together	G3588	the chief priests	and
G4091	G1161	G4779		G749	G2532
τοὺς	ἄρχοντας	καὶ	τὸν	λαόν	
G3588	the rulers	and	G3588	the people	
	G758	G2532		G2992	

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