

Luke 23:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.

Analysis

No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him—Pilate invokes Herod's examination as corroborating evidence of innocence. The phrase **nothing worthy of death is done unto him** (οὐδὲν ἄξιον θανάτου ἐστὶν πεπραγμένον αὐτῷ, *ouden axion thanatou estin pepragmenon autō*) employs the perfect passive participle *pepragmenon*—'has been done' with ongoing results. Pilate declares no capital crime exists in Jesus's record—neither Herod nor himself found anything deserving execution.

This dual testimony (Pilate and Herod) fulfills the Deuteronomic requirement: 'at the mouth of two witnesses...shall the matter be established' (Deuteronomy 19:15). Ironically, two hostile witnesses establish Jesus's innocence, while the Sanhedrin's false witnesses failed to establish guilt (Mark 14:56-59). The phrase *axios thanatou* (worthy of death) echoes Roman legal language and appears in Paul's defense (Acts 25:11, 25, 26:31)—Luke consistently demonstrates Christianity's innocence before Roman law.

Historical Context

Herod Antipas's concurrence with Pilate's verdict carried political weight. Though subordinate to Rome, Herod governed Galilee with significant autonomy and knew Jesus's ministry firsthand. His sending Jesus back to Pilate without sentencing effectively constituted acquittal—he found no basis for execution. This

collaboration would soon cement their friendship (v. 12), united in their treatment of Christ.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the double testimony of Pilate and Herod to Jesus's innocence intensify the guilt of those who demanded his death?
2. What does it mean that Jesus was found worthy of death by false religious accusers but innocent by pagan political authorities?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλ' οὐδὲ Ἡρώδης ἀνέπεμψα γὰρ ὑμᾶς πρὸς αὐτῷ.
No **nor yet** **Herod** **I sent** **for** **you** **to** **him**
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καὶ ἰδοὺ, οὐδὲν ἄξιον θανάτου ἐστὶν πεπραγμένον
and **lo** **nothing** **worthy** **of death** **is** **done**
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αὐτῷ.
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