

# Luke 23:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.

## Analysis

**"We found this fellow perverting the nation"** (διαστρέφοντα, diastrephonta)—the verb means "to twist" or "distort," implying Jesus was corrupting Israel's religious and political order. This was a calculated lie; the Sanhedrin knew their religious charge of blasphemy (22:70-71) would not move Pilate, so they manufactured three political accusations.

The charges were masterful distortions:

1. **"perverting the nation"**—sedition
2. **"forbidding to give tribute to Caesar"**—tax resistance (contradicting Jesus's actual teaching in 20:25, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's")
3. **"saying that he himself is Christ a King"** (Χριστὸν βασιλέα, Christon basilea)—claiming kingship as treason.

They reframed Jesus's spiritual messiahship as political insurrection, knowing Rome crucified rebels. Their goal was Pilate's death sentence, not truth.

## Historical Context

Judea was under direct Roman rule (AD 6-66), governed by prefects like Pontius Pilate (AD 26-36). Roman law required the Jewish Sanhedrin to bring capital cases

to the governor for sentencing. Political charges—sedition, tax revolt, claiming kingship—were executable offenses. The Jewish leaders cynically weaponized Roman fear of uprising.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How do religious or ideological opponents today twist language to make biblical truth sound dangerous or extremist?
2. The Sanhedrin knew Jesus taught submission to Caesar (Luke 20:25). What does their willingness to lie reveal about hearts hardened against truth?

## Interlinear Text

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ἤρξαντο δὲ κατηγορεῖν αὐτοῦ λέγοντα Τοῦτον εὗρομεν

they began And to accuse him saying this We found

G756 G1161 G2723 G846 G3004 G5126 G2147

διαστρέφοντα τὸ ἔθνος καὶ κωλύοντα Καίσαρι φόρους

fellow perverting the nation and forbidding to Caesar tribute

G1294 G3588 G1484 G2532 G2967 G2541 G5411

διδόναι λέγοντα ἐαυτὸν Χριστὸν βασιλέα εἶναι

to give saying that he himself Christ a King is

G1325 G3004 G1438 G5547 G935 G1511

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 19:12** (Kingdom): And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.

**Luke 23:14** (Parallel theme): Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him:

**Acts 24:5** (Parallel theme): For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:

**Psalms 62:4** (Parallel theme): They only consult to cast him down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah.

**Jeremiah 20:10** (Parallel theme): For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, say they, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, saying, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him.

**Jeremiah 38:4** (Kingdom): Therefore the princes said unto the king, We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words unto them: for this man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but the hurt.

**Mark 12:17** (Parallel theme): And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.

**Zechariah 11:8** (Parallel theme): Three shepherds also I cut off in one month; and my soul loathed them, and their soul also abhorred me.

**Matthew 22:21** (Parallel theme): They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

**John 18:30** (Parallel theme): They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee.