

Lesson 6

Jesus Is Condemned by Pilate

Matthew 27:11-32, Mark 15:2-31, Luke 23:2-32 and John 18:28-19:16

Begin today's lesson asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind and to teach you His precepts.

1. What concept from last week's lesson was especially helpful or thought provoking to you?

“He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth.”

Read Matthew 27:11-32, Mark 15:2-31, Luke 23:2-32 and John 18:28-19:16 out loud every day this week.

2. As you read the above verses, what initially strikes you?
3. The Jewish authorities had just spent the whole night railroading an innocent man toward condemnation and execution. Discuss the irony of John 18:28.

Isaiah 53:7

In last week's lesson, Jesus was tried by the Sanhedrin for the “crime” of blasphemy because He claimed to be the Messiah. However, the Sanhedrin did not have the authority to condemn anyone to death. Their case had to be presented before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. The Roman Empire was a pagan empire where gods abounded. The Roman authorities could not have cared less if someone claimed to be a god.

4. What tactic did the Jewish authorities take in framing their case before Pilate? See John 18:29-30 and Luke 23:2.
5. What charge did Pilate investigate and why do you think he focused on this?

6. Why was Pilate amazed by Jesus? Site a verse and discuss.
7. Read through the verses for this week's lesson. Make a note of each time Pilate either tried to release Jesus or stated His innocence. Discuss.

When Pilate learned that Jesus was a Galilean, he saw his chance to “pass Jesus off” to Herod Antipas, the Roman ruler over Galilee who happened to be in Jerusalem for the Passover. Herod Antipas' father was Herod the Great who was responsible for the slaughter of innocents at the time of Christ's birth. Herod Antipas was responsible for the beheading of John the Baptist.

8. Read Luke 9:7-9 and Luke 13:31-32. What were Jesus' and Herod's attitudes toward one another? Discuss.
9. From Luke 23:8-9, why did Herod want to see Jesus?
10. In addition to the accusation of being a king, what other charge was brought against Jesus in Luke 23:14? Discuss why this would get Rome's attention.
11. From Luke 23:14-15, what were Herod's and Pilate's conclusions about the guilt of Jesus?
12. Discuss the lengths the Lord went to trying to get Pilate's attention in Matthew 27:19.
13. What was the reason that the Jews turned Jesus over to Pilate? See Mark 15:10 and Matthew 27:18.

14. What was the reason Pilate released Barabbas and not Jesus in Mark 15:15? Discuss what you learn about Pilate from these actions.

15. Read Matthew 27:26-31, Mark 15:16-20 and John 19:1-4, and discuss the treatment Pilate ordered for a man he believed was innocent.

16. Finally the truth is revealed, and Pilate learned the reason the Jews wanted Jesus dead. Read John 19:7-15 and discuss.

17. The Jews resented Rome's authority over them yet they proclaimed they had no king but Caesar. Discuss the irony of their remarks in John 19:15.

18. The dilemma that Pilate faced was ultimately the dilemma that each person must face. Read Matthew 27:22 and discuss how the answer has eternal consequences for each one of us.

19. Based on your study this week, what do you think God is teaching you or inviting you to do or be?

Lecture Notes: