

Lesson 32: The Trials

Objective: To learn that the trials of Jesus, the Light of the World, reveals (shows) how ugly our hearts are.

Background: Jesus stood on trial before the Jewish Council, a religious court, and was sentenced to death. But the Council had no power (authority) to put Jesus to death. That power was in the hands of Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea. That power was in the hands of Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, for the Jews were under the rule of the Roman Empire. And that was why the Council (the Jews) brought Jesus before Pilate, hoping that he would do their wish, crucify Jesus, their King (Messiah).

Instructions: Read carefully Matthew 26:30 to Matthew 27:26; Luke 23:1-25 as if you were there when Jesus was arrested and put on trial.

Let's Think: Read over the verses listed at the end of the questions before answering.

It was after midnight (Thursday) when Jesus and the eleven disciples arrived at the Garden of Gethsemane at the foot of the Mount of Olives, where Jesus often met with His disciples. It was a quiet night but soon the storm broke out and Jesus was deserted, despised and rejected by all and then tortured and killed. Let us in silence see what Jesus, the Son of God, went through for you and me the last night of His life on earth.

1. a) What did Jesus tell the disciples when they arrived at Gethsemane? (John 26:37,38) Did the disciples understand His feelings? Were they "with" Him? Explain (John 26:38,40)

b) How was Jesus tempted again in the Garden? (Review Lessons 4 & 17) Which did Jesus choose in His prayers? (Matthew 26:39,42,44) and what did the choice He made mean?

2. a) Why did the religious leaders send the men to arrest Jesus at midnight? (Matthew 26:3-5) And how did the men know where to find Jesus? (Matthew 26:47-50; John 18:1,2)

b) Could Jesus have avoided being arrested if He had chosen to do so? Explain (Matthew 26:51-55)

3. a) What happened to Peter in the courtyard while Jesus was on trial inside?
(Matthew 26:57,58, 69-75) Did he do it intentionally (plan ahead)? (Matthew 26:33-35)
How about Judas Iscariot? (Luke 22:3-6)

b) And where were the rest of the disciples after Jesus was arrested? (Matthew 26:56)

4. a) Jesus first stood on trial before the Jewish court. Was it a “fair” trial? (Matthew 26:59-61)
On what charge did the Jewish court sentence Jesus to death? (Matthew 26:63-68)

b) Why were the Jewish leaders determined to get rid of Jesus? (Matthew 27:15-18;
John 12:12-19)

5. a) What crimes was Jesus accused of when He was brought before Pilate? (Luke 23:1,2)
According to Pilate’s judgment was Jesus: GUILTY or INNOCENT? (Luke 23:4,13-17,22)

b) Could Pilate have released Jesus if he had chosen to do so? Which did Pilate choose in the
end; his own interest or justice? (Luke 23:22-25; John 19:12)

6. a) What did the crowd, who shouted “Hosanna” to Jesus on Sunday, shout on Friday
morning? And which did they choose to release: Barabbas or Jesus? Why?
(Matthew 27:20-23)

What do you think of Jesus as you saw Him stand on trial? Should you follow the leaders
blindly, or go along with the crowd? If not, what should you do?

Let’s Remember: “And this is the judgment, that the Light (Jesus) has come into the world,
and men loved darkness (sin) rather than light, because their deeds are
evil.” (John 3:19)

