

Lesson 32 The Trials

Objective: To know that the trials of Jesus, the Light of the World, reveals the *ugliness* of human hearts.

Background: Jesus stood on trial before the Jewish Council, a religious court, and was officially sentenced to death. But the Council had no power to carry out the execution. That power was in the hands of Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, for the Jews were under the rule of the Roman Empire. That was why the Jewish Council brought Jesus before Pilate hoping that he would carry out their wish --crucifying Jesus, their Messiah-King.

Instruction: Read carefully Matthew 26:30-27:26; Luke 23: 1-25 as if you were present at the scene.

Let's Think:

It was after midnight (Thursday) when Jesus and the Eleven arrived at the garden of Gethsemane at the foot of the Olivet, where Jesus often met with the disciples. It was a quiet night but soon the storms broke out and Jesus was deserted, despised, *and rejected by all*, then, He was 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 here on earth.

1. a. What did Jesus tell the disciples after they arrived at Gethsemane? {Mt. 26: 37f.} Were the disciples "with" Him? Had anyone lent Him support? Explain.
b. What temptation did Jesus face again in the Garden? Explain. {Review Lessons 4 & 17} In what way, is His prayer in the Garden a "model" prayer for believers to pattern after? Explain.
2. a. Why did the men come to arrest Jesus at midnight? How did they know where to find Him or how to identify Him? Describe the scene. {Matt 26:47-50; John 18:1f.}
b. Had the prayer in the Garden in any way prepared Jesus for the impending ordeal? Explain.
3. a. What happened to Peter in the courtyard outside while Jesus was on trial inside? {Matt 26:57-58, 69-75} Would you put Peter and Judas Iscariot in the same category? Give your reasons.
b. Did any of the disciples stand by Jesus through the ordeal? Explain. {Matt 26:56}
4. a. Do you think Jesus had a "fair" trial before the Jewish court? Substantiate your answer {Matt 26:57-63a}. On what charge was He sentenced to death? {Matt 26:63b-68}
b. Why were the Jewish leaders *bent on getting rid* of Jesus? {Matt 27:15-18; John 12:12-19}
5. a. What crimes was Jesus accused of when He was brought before Pilate? Why? {Lk.23: If.} How serious were the charges? {Remember the political status of the Jewish nation.)
b. After examining Jesus, what was Pilate's verdict: Guilty or Innocent? {Lk. 23:4, 13-17} Had Pilate carried out *his conviction*? If not, why? How do you describe the man? {cf. John19: 12ff.}
6. a. What did the crowd who shouted "Hosanna" on Sunday, shout on Friday morning? Why? Do people join the "losing" side? or join the "minority"? {Note the "mob psychology" at work.)
b. Why did the Jewish nation reject Jesus when they had *so long waited for the Messiah*? And why were they so fanatically oppose Him and His claim?
7. a. What insight into human nature do you gain as you watched the trial of Jesus? Had human nature changed over the years? Reflect on it.
b. Does this study, in any way, make you a better Christian? If so, how? Be specific!

Let's Remember: And this is the judgment, that the Light {Jesus} has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil. {John 3:19}