

## 7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

### Lesson Plan: Jesus' Passion

**Learning Goals:** Students should be able to recognize unique features of Jesus' Passion from John's Gospel.

**Question:** Why was it necessary that Jesus die?

Prayer.

Discuss question on board. (5 minutes)

### Read John 18-19

Review the meaning of the term "Passion" = Jesus' suffering

### Jesus' Arrest

- A key verse for understanding Jesus' Passion: John 10:17-18
  - *"For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."* (John 10:17-18 ESV)
- John emphasizes that Jesus knew what was going to happen. Nothing took him by surprise. (vs. 4)
- Judas does not reveal who Jesus is, Jesus essentially turns himself over (surrenders).
- John emphasizes Jesus' power - when Jesus said "I am," all the people fall to the ground. (vs. 4-6)
- Peter cuts off the ear of Malchus, the servant of the high priest.
- Notice what is missing in John
  - No kiss from Judas
  - No healing of the priest's servant

### Jewish Trials

- Jesus is brought before Annas first (unique to John).
- Annas had been the high priest from 6-15 CE.
- Though he was removed from this position (so that he wouldn't gain too much power), he was still the puppet-master behind the scenes. He was able to get his 5 sons and his son-in-law (Caiaphas) in the position of high priest at various times.
- After questioning Jesus, Annas sends him to Caiaphas (high priest from 18-36 CE). We don't actually get any record of Jesus' trial before Caiaphas. Annas is really the power behind the scenes.

### Roman Trial

- Notice that the Jewish officials refuse to enter Pilate's house because of a concern for ritual cleanliness. If they had, they would not be able to celebrate the Passover. (18:28)
- Jesus reveals to Pilate his purpose (18:37) - he has come to bear witness to the truth. Everything about Jesus has been pointing to this - his birth, teachings, preaching, healing, calling the disciples, etc. Everything has been to reveal God's truth (Jesus) to the world.
- Pilate responds: "What is truth?" This is THE question that we must deal with. This is what apologetics and defending our faith is all about - what is truth?
  - Scientist - truth is what we can observe with our senses.
  - Philosopher - truth is what we prove with reason

- Mystic - truth is what I find within myself
- Relativist - there is no truth, no black and white, everything is gray
- Jesus has given an answer to what truth is
  - Jesus is truth (14:6)
  - God's Spirit is truth (16:13)
  - God's word is truth (17:17)
- Pilate pronounces judgment from a place called Gabbatha (The Stone Pavement). Jesus was crucified at a place called Golgotha (the Place of the Skull).
- Why would Pilate release a prisoner? They are celebrating Passover, the time when they remember being released from captivity in Egypt. This was the Romans' way of trying to pacify the Israelites.

### Crucifixion

- What features are unique to John?
  - The Roman soldiers cast lots for Jesus' clothing. (Casting lots is kind of like rolling dice.)
  - The conversation between Jesus, John, and Mary (one of the seven last sayings of Jesus from the cross). He wants John to take care of his mother.
  - When Jesus died, he is described as "giving up his spirit." His life is given, it is not taken from him. Jesus dies because he chooses to die, not because he is forced to die.
  - Why would they break the legs of the victims? Remember how we talked about crucifixion - you died from suffocation because you had to push yourself to be able to exhale. By breaking their legs, they were forcing them to suffocate from CO2 poisoning.
  - The Roman soldiers pierced Jesus in the side. Water and blood flowed out from him.
    - Three ways to understand this:
      - ▶ **Represents Jesus' Humanness** (medical explanation) - the spear pierced the pericardium sack around the heart, causing both blood and clear fluid around the heart to flow out together, resembling blood and water; Jesus did not just appear to be human, he was human.
      - ▶ **Represents Jesus' Forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit** - what the blood of the lamb did for Israel, Jesus does for the world; as Jesus offered the woman at the well "living water" it is being given here.
      - ▶ **Represents Jesus' Sacramental Gifts** (symbolism) - Baptism and Eucharist ("meal of thanksgiving" or the "Lord's Supper"); Baptism and Martyrdom (dying for your faith)
  - John is identified as an eyewitness to these events. (19:35)

### Jesus' Burial

- Nicodemus is there to help - a hint about his response to Jesus from Ch. 3
- Nicodemus brings with him 75 pounds of myrrh and aloes This is an unusually large amount - approximately the amount expected for a royal burial.

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### Lesson Summary /Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Annas
- Pilate

- Gabbatha
- Golgotha
- Peter
- Eucharist
- Martyrdom
- Where do we see the theme of ritual cleanliness illustrated here?
- Explain the connection between John's account of Jesus' Passion and John 10:17-18.
- In what three ways do we understand John's statement that blood and water flowed from the pierced side of Jesus?