

## 7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

### Lesson Plan: Jesus' Trials

**Learning Goals:** Students should be able to distinguish between the Jewish and Roman trials Jesus endured and be able to articulate the different corresponding charges brought against Jesus.

**Question:** Why was Jesus put to death?

Prayer

Discuss Question on Board

**Read Luke 22:54-23:25** (Matthew 26:57-27:26; Mark 14:53-15:15)

### Peter's Denial

- At the last supper, Jesus warned that Satan had asked to sift him
- Peter is the only disciple not to leave Jesus following the arrest
- Peter followed "at a distance"
- Peter demonstrates that he is a coward and liar.
- Luke's gospel relates the detail that as soon as he made the third denial, Jesus turned and looked at him. What must this have been like?

### Jewish Trials

- Jesus appears before Annas (old high priest), Caiaphas (current high priest and son-in-law of Annas), and the Sanhedrin (ruling body of the Jews).
- He is brought up on religious charges
- There is not enough evidence to convict him and the testimony against him is not consistent
- In questioning Jesus, he reluctantly states that his identity:
  - Son of God
  - Messiah
  - "I Am"
- Priest "tears his robe," this is not in a fit of emotion or anger. This is representative of a formal legal decision - he is being declared as guilty.

### Roman Trials

- Roman Governor would ultimately decide fate of Jesus
  - Rome is not interested in Jewish religious questions
  - Sanhedrin must come up with political charges against Jesus: "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king."
- Jesus is brought to the Praetorium, where the Roman governor Pilate was headquartered
- He appears before Pilate, Herod Antipas, and Pilate a second time.
  - Pilate found him innocent (either found him politically harmless or was impressed with his innocence)
  - Herod (same one who beheaded John the Baptist) seems more interested in Jesus a miracle-worker; mocked by dressing him in an elegant robe and sent him back to Pilate; ultimately he finds no fault in Jesus
  - Pilate tries multiple times to release him:
    - ▶ sending him to Herod
    - ▶ offering to have him flogged

- ▶ offering to release one prisoner at Passover [the festival remembering their release from bondage],
- ▶ washes his hands of Jesus' blood, etc.).
- ▶ Ultimately, Pilate condemns Jesus because of the crowd.

**Barabbas**

- When given the choice, the people choose the release of Barabbas, a notorious revolutionary bandit who had been convicted of murder

---

**Lesson Summary/Review:**

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

- Praetorium
- Jewish Trial of Jesus
- Roman Trial of Jesus
- Pilate
- Herod Antipas
- Caiaphas
- Barabbas
- Why did the high priest “tear his robe” in Jesus’ trial?