

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is your understanding of the necessity of Christ's death?
2. Why did so many people of His day fail to recognize Jesus as Messiah and Saviour of the world?
3. Is it easier to recognize Jesus as Saviour today?
4. Why didn't Jesus tell His disciples about the way His life would end?
5. What factors made Peter turn so quickly from his supportive confidence to denial?
6. What can we learn from Peter's denial of Jesus Christ?

SUMMARY:

Though men have spurned Him, He is very precious to God who has chosen Him above all others. He is very precious to us who believe. We will never be disappointed in Him, so let us go out to Him beyond the city walls (that is, outside the interests of this world, being willing to be despised) to suffer with Him there, bearing His shame. For this world is not our home; we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #9

May 29, 2005

Second Quarter

CHRIST SUFFERS REJECTION

LESSON TEXT: *John 18:1-27*

LESSON SETTING: Jerusalem, before Jesus' trial.

TIME: Approximately 33 A.D.

- I. BETRAYED BY JUDAS.** John 18:1-4
 - A. The Paradox of Friendship. Psalm 41:9; 55:12-14
 - B. An Example of Endurance for the Christian. Hebrews 12:3
 - C. Betrayed with a Kiss—Usually the Symbol of Love. Mark 14:45
- II. SEIZED BY ENEMIES.** John 18:5-14
 - A. Submission of Christ (vs. 8)
 - B. Christ's Composure. Mark 4:40; John 19:11
- III. DENIED BY PETER.** John 18:15-27
 - A. Peter's Confidence. Matthew 26:33
 - B. Peter's Fear. Matthew 26:58, 69-70
 - C. Peter's Fall. Matthew 26:70-74

GOLDEN TEXT: *THE CUP WHICH MY FATHER HATH GIVEN ME, SHALL I NOT DRINK IT?*
John 18:11

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: John 18:28-40; 19:1-16

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Daniel 3:1-30; Matthew 27:1-30;
Mark 15:1-20; Luke 23:1-25

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ, the Son of God

TOPIC: CHRIST APPEARS BEFORE PILATE

INTRODUCTION:

Out of necessity the Jews had to bring the case of Jesus to the Roman Court wherein John saw God's guidance so that Gentiles and Jews both had a part in Jesus' death. According to Jewish law He should have been stoned but the Cross was to become the object. (John 12:32-33)

The Jews had to make it appear as though Jesus was a political threat to Pilate, by saying that Christ said that He himself was a King. (Luke 2:32) Then Jesus gave a wonderful testimony of His kingdom and Kingship, which is today's Golden Text.

Pilate saw the predicament he was faced with, yet he tried to minimize it and escape it. But he did not have the courage to face up to the truth and free Jesus, even though he knew that He was innocent. He had the power to do so.

Pilate could not make the people have pity on Him when he himself did not have any. He continued to roll the responsibility onto the people. Upon hearing Jesus say that He was the Son of God, Pilate was more afraid and tried to free Jesus. Also Pilate's wife must have made him afraid. (Matthew 27:19) What a man and judge he was, to be more afraid of the people than of God and the Truth! He had the chance to listen to Jesus' words of what Truth was, which he asked in a mocking way, but he did not wait for the answer; thereby missing his chance for possible salvation.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Men today must still decide to accept or reject Christ.

GOLDEN TEXT: *TO THIS END WAS I BORN, AND FOR THIS CAUSE CAME I INTO THE WORLD, THAT I SHOULD BEAR WITNESS UNTO THE TRUTH.*
John 18:37

The songwriter says: "What will you do with Jesus?" We are all faced with the awful responsibility of what to do with Jesus. We must, during our lifetime, decide to accept Him or reject Him. To reject Him we must do absolutely nothing, just live unto ourselves and be condemned with the world. We cannot escape the responsibility or the decision by simply ignoring Jesus. Pilate said in a mocking way "behold the Man." Also in every Christian heart reverberates the thankful admiration: "Behold the Man, O, what Love!" Jesus truly fulfilled the purpose of His Coming. He knew this was the only way to make salvation possible for all mankind. Hear His voice and decide to follow Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 30 – June 5

- M. *Jews Appear Before Pilate. John 18:28-32
- T. *Christ Appears Before Pilate. John 18:33-40
- W. *Christ Released to the Jews. John 19:1-16
- T. Mark Relates Christ's Rejection. Mark 15:8-18
- F. Luke Relates Christ's Rejection. Luke 23:1-10
- S. Enemies Become Friends. Luke 23:11-20
- S. Paul Preaches Christ. Acts 13:26-34