

Discussion Guide

1. From our passage, we can see that racism and bigotry aren't new. There is also religious bias as well. In what ways do you see this today?
2. Peace is to be the Christian's demeanor. Is there ever a time when physical violence might be the right answer?
3. Explain in your own words why peace is such a powerful apologetic for believers. What does it testify to a watching world?
4. There is a tension between our heavenly and earthly citizenship. What does that look like in everyday life?
5. What principle in today's lesson do you believe was the most important, and why?

ANSWERS: Crucifixion, prophecy, overthrow, cooperation, witness



Lesson: Two hundred fifty four
Series: The Cross of Christ
Title: Jesus Before Pilate, Part 1
Text: Matt. 27:11; Jh 18:28-38
Date: July 4, 2021

The stages of Jesus' trial:

A. Jews (Religious)

1. Annas
2. Caiaphas
3. Sanhedrin

Matthew 27:1-2 Now when morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus to put Him to death;

2 and they bound Him, and led Him away and delivered Him to Pilate the governor.

B. Roman (Civil)

1. Pilate
2. Herod
3. Pilate.

1. The false accusation of the Jews.

Matthew 27:11-18 Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And Jesus said to him, "It is as you say."

John 18:28 Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover.

"Praetorium?"

"defiled"

29 Therefore Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?"

Great hostility between Pilate and the Jews.

Pilate knew what was going on.

18 For he knew that because of ENVY they had handed Him over.

By avoiding violence, we _____ to a watching world that our kingdom is not of this world.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

"ambassadors" - Ambassadors are accredited diplomats sent by a country as its official representative to a foreign country.

Implications

Why didn't Jesus _____ the

Jewish government?

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

"not of this world" - "not of this realm"

"My servants would be "fighting"

Our Lord's explanation to Pilate is significant.

Our efforts to advance the Kingdom aren't dependent on the _____ of earthly powers.

30 They answered and said to him, "If this Man were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him to you."

31 So Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law."

31b The Jews said to him, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death,"

32 to fulfill the word of Jesus which He spoke, signifying by what kind of death He was about to die.

John 12:32-33 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." 33 But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.

"lifted up from the earth"

"kind of death"

God was providentially controlling all the political circumstances so that Jesus would be crucified in fulfillment of _____.

33 Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"

Luke 23:2 And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."

The Jews pressed three political charges.

"misleading the nation"

"forbidding to pay taxes"

"a King"

John 18:34

34 Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?"

35 Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?"

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

37 Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." 38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, "I find no guilt in Him."