LESSON 13

JESUS' TRIAL

Reading Portion	:	Mat. 26:57-68 Mark 14:53-65 Luke 22: 66-71 John 18: 12-24
Memory Verse	:	John. 18:37
Objective	:	To understand that the son of God who bore no sin was punished on our behalf.

INTRODUCTION

When Jesus had finished praying to his Father, along with his desciples, the soldiers reached Gethsamane, to catch Jesus. Judas Iscariot was also with them and he betrayed Jesus by kissing him.

Before Annas (John. 18: 20-24):

The priests and soldiers took Jesus first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest of that year . Annas tried Jesus first, because sennhedrin the council of jews could not assemble on time. As per the Jewish custom they were to undertake the trial. They asked Jesus about his doctrine and desciples. Jesus did'nt say anything about his disciples, but He said that He taught His doctrine publically in synagognes and to ask them asembled there, about his doctrine. Then one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus on his face with the palm of his hand. Then Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, prove it, but if well, why do you strike me?" - Jesus' response was filled with humility and peace.

Before Caiaphas (Mark. 14:53-65):

Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas for further trial. The council of jews had arranged some false witnesses there but their testimonies did not agree. Jesus did'nt reply for any of their accusations. Then the high priest, Caiaphas, stood up and asked, "Are you Christ, the son of God?". Jesus answered him, saying, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man,

sitting at the right hand of God, and coming in the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes. The law says that the high priest should never tear his dress (Levi. 21:10). This incident was a symbol of showing the end of old testament priesthood.

Peter's Denial (Math: 26:29-75, John 18:15-27):

When Jesus was standing before the council of Jews, John and Peter, came to the courtyard of the high priest, to know what the verdict would be. The woman who was keeping the gate knew John and by John's influence, Peter was allowed to enter the courtyard. The servants and officers had mde a fire of coals, for warming themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself. Then the officers asked him, "Are you not one of His desciples?". He denied it and said, "I am not". After this, Peter was standing in the countryard, when a servant girl came and asked him, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee". But he denied before all of them saying, "I do not know what you are saying". And when he had gone to the gateway, one of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Peter then denied again and immeidately a rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus and went out and wept bitterly. We should always be alert, and pray that we will not enter into temptation.

Before Pilate (Luke 23: 1-7):

Caiaphas sent Jesus to the then Jewish governor Pontius Pilate - Jews brought four allegations against Jesus

(i) Jesus opposed giving taxes to Caeser (Luke 23:2)

(ii) Jesus claimed that He is Christ the King (Luke 23:2)

(iii) Jesus perverted the nation (Luke 23:2)

(iv) Jesus stirred up the people (Luke 23:5)

But Pilate could'nt find any fault with Jesus, even after his interrogation.

Before Herod (Luke 23:8-11)

When seven pilate know that Jesus was from Galilee, which came under the jurisdiction of Herod, he send Him to Herod. Jesus did'nt answer for any of his questions. Herod and his soldiers mocked Him, arrayed Him in a kingly robe, and sent him back to Pilate.

Again Jesus before Pilate on trial (John: 18: 28-40)

Since Herod could not find any fault in Jesus to condemn Him for

death penalty, he sent Him back to Pilate. Pilate brought Jesus before his judgement seat and prosecuted Him for the second time. Here also he could'nt find any fault with Jesus and therefore sent him to the elders of the Jews.

Pilate sat on his judgment seat for a third time, and asked Jesus. "Are you king of the Jews?" Jesus answerd, "I am a King. but my kingdom is not of this world". Then Pilate's wife sent messengers to him asking him not to condemn the righteous man Jesus. But since Pilate feared the Jews, he tried to release, Jesus after chartisement. Then Pilate delivered Jesus into their hands. The soldiers removed His dress and put a scarlet robe on Him. They twisted a crown of thorns and put it on his head and a reed on His right hand. And they bowed before Him and mocked Him. They spat on Him and took the reed and struck Him on the head. Later they put his clothes back on Him. Jesus suffered all this for the remission of our sins.

Pilate, fearing the Jews, sat a fourth time on his judgment seat and began to prosecute Jesus; saying, "Do you not know that I have power to crucify you and to release you?". Then Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against me unless it has been given to you from above. Therefore the one who delivered me to you has the greater sin". Pilate sought to release them. But the Jews cried out saying," If you let this man go, you are not the friend of Caeser". Since Pilate was not ready to face the enemity of Caeser and Jews, he delivered Jesus into the hands of Jews to crucify him. Jesus suffered all these, because he loved us. Do you love Jesus the sameway?

QUESTIONS

1. Why was Jesus taken before Pilate for trial ?
2. What were the charges brought against Jesus? How many times did Pilate prosecute Jesus ?
3. What was the testimony of Pilate's wife about Jesus ?
4. Why did Pilate sentenced Jesus to be crucified, though he found no fault in Him?

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