



**Week 5**

**Jesus'  
unjust  
treatment**



# **PERSONAL STUDY**

**Read Mark 14:53-65, Mark 15:1-15 and Mark 15:16-20**

## **OPENING REMARKS:**

The Sanhedrin was the highest Jewish court in the land. It was comprised of the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law, while the high priest presided over it. This is the final confrontation between Jesus and the hostile Jewish religious leaders. They now have Jesus in a situation that they fully control. This is less a trial, more a hearing in search of evidence against Jesus to put Him to death. Jesus allows himself to be taken. The Sanhedrin did not have the judicial authority to give the death penalty, therefore they referred his trial to Pilate, the Roman prefect of the province of Judea.

Just as the Sanhedrin represented and acted on behalf of the Jews, Pilate acted on behalf of the Roman empire. The Romans were concerned that there could be an uprising, because of the heightened tensions at Passover. Pilate thought he could navigate these emotions by giving the Jews a choice about who he will set free. The Jews

chose Barabbas, a popular hero of a local resistance group.

Pilate considered Jesus to be innocent, but as a result of the Jewish demand, he handed Jesus over to the soldiers, to be flogged and crucified.

**STUDY QUESTIONS:**

**Read Mark 14:53-65**

Read Mark 14:53-54. Where is Jesus led after he is taken into custody? Which one of the disciples followed the group? What did he busy himself doing while Jesus was on trial?

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Read Mark 14:55. What were the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin looking for and why?

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Read Mark 14:56. Witnesses came forward. What made their testimonies unusable?

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Read Mark 14: 57-59 Here we find an example of the false testimonies. What was this testimony and why could it not be used against Jesus?

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The following verses give the reason this testimony could not be used by the group. Write a summary of the reasons.

Deuteronomy 17:6	
Deuteronomy 19:15	

Read Mark 14:61. Why did Jesus not answer the charges that the people gave against Him? (Refer to Isaiah 53:7)

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Read Mark 14:62. When Jesus did respond, He responds in two parts. What are these answers:

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2. ....

What is significant about these responses if we compare it to the following verses:

Exodus 3:13-14	
Psalm 110:1	

What does the High Priest do next?

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**Read Mark 15:1-15**

Read Mark 15:1. A group formed and set out to do something. Who made up this group and what steps did they take?

- a).....b).....
- c).....d).....
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Read Mark 15:2-3. What did Pilate ask and how did Jesus respond? What did the accusers do when Jesus responded this way?

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Read Mark 15:5-6. What did Pilate ask in response? How did Jesus respond to Pilate?

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How does Jesus' actions reflect both the fulfillment of scripture and His own teaching? (Refer to Matthew 5:43-48)

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Read Mark 15:6-8. What was customary to take place during this time of the feast? Who was identified in the text and for what was he imprisoned?

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Read Mark 15:9-10. What did Pilate ask the crowd at this time. What was the reason for Pilate's question?

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Read Mark 15:11-13. The chief priests stirred up the crowd and they ask for Barabbas to be released. Pilate asked them what he should do with Jesus. What was their response?

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Read Mark 15:14-15. Why do you think Pilate questioned the crowds' request? What did he do with Jesus after the crowd insisted that Jesus be crucified?

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**Read Mark 15:16-20**

Read Mark 15:16-20. After Pilate turned over Jesus, the soldiers took Him to the palace (the governor’s residence). They went through a series of actions (verse 17-20). What were they?

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**Closing remarks:**

In effect, there were three phases of Jesus’ trial before the Jewish authorities and three phases of His trial before the Roman authorities, and they should not be confused:

Upon His arrest, Jesus was first taken to Annas (John 18:12-24), then to an illegal night court in front of Caiaphas (Mark 14:53-65), then to an official daylight trial of the

Sanhedrin (Mark 15:1), then to Pilate (Mark 15:2-6), who sent Jesus to Herod (Luke 23:6-12), who sent Jesus back to Pilate (Mark 15:6-15), who then sent Him to the cross.

Jesus could have mounted a magnificent defence here, by calling all the various witnesses to His deity, power and character. The people He taught, the people He healed, the dead risen, the blind who see, even the demons themselves testified to His deity. But He chose to be silent.

And when under formal oath, when Jesus was asked to incriminate Himself, He essentially said, "You now stand in judgment of Me, but I will be the ultimate judge." These words would have given any wise judge pause but did not slow down His accusers.

History tells us that Pilate did not like the Jews, and that he believed they were a stubborn and rebellious people. Since he was constantly suspicious of the Jews, when they brought him a prisoner for execution, he immediately suspected there was a hidden agenda at work. Nevertheless, before Pilate could make a decision, he had to follow the normal procedures for a trial.

In the midst of this, Pilate believed he found a way to do what was right, yet not pay a price for it. Pilate thought Jesus could escape death if He were released according

to the custom of releasing a prisoner every Passover season.

It was a strange scene: a cruel, ruthless Roman governor trying to win the life of a miracle-working Jew against the strenuous efforts of both the Jewish leaders and the crowd.

# **GROUP DISCUSSION**

## **Prayer**

### **Reflection:**

Share with the group members how God worked in your life during this week.

### **Scripture Reading:**

Mark 14:53-15:20

## Discussion questions

Read Mark 14:53-55. What was the goal of the priests and the high priest in this “trial”? Why did they want to kill Jesus?

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Read Mark 14:56-59. What should a judge or jury keep trying to do? Why was it a problem that the counsel was not consistent?

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How did Jesus react to all these accusations? Why did He remain silent? What do we learn from Jesus here?

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Read Mark 14: 61-62. How did Jesus answer the high priest’s key question? Why did he answer this question instead of remaining quiet?

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Read Mark 15:1-6. How did Jesus respond to Pilate's interrogation? What was Pilate's reaction? Discuss.

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Read Mark 15:15. Why does Pilate hand Jesus over to be crucified? Have you done things to pacify others, even if it is against God's will? Discuss in the group.

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Read Mark 15:16-20. The soldiers mocked Jesus as "the king of the Jews. In what ways is this title correct and appropriate? In what ways is it incorrect and inappropriate? Discuss.

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**Close in prayer**