



Jesus' Trial and Crucifixion

Lesson Overview

1. Fair Trial
2. Watch a Video

Watch John 18:1-40 at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn from 2hr 18min 52sec to 2hr 57min 57sec (9min 5sec).

3. Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

New Church Concept The Crucifixion

He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief... Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.... He was bruised for our iniquities,,and by His stripes we are healed. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth.... Isaiah 53:3,4,5,7

All those who see Me laugh Me to scorn; ...they shake the head, saying, "He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!: Psalm 22:7-8

And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him.... Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." Luke 23:33,34

FaithBuilder 3 | Lesson 24 | Gospel of John

Fair Trial

1. What elements make a trial fair?
2. Are all trials fair? Why or why not?
3. Immediately before the crucifixion, Jesus was tried by the Roman authorities. Read about the trial in John 18:12-14; 19-24; 28-38. Was the trial fair?
4. Did the **Romans** find Jesus innocent or guilty? (See John 18:38)

Watch a Video

Watch John 18:1-40, Jesus' Capture and Trial, *The Life of Jesus . English . Official Full HD Movie*, at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn. (Enter link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.) **Start at 2hr 18min 52sec and watch to 2hr 27min 57sec; 9min 5sec.)**

Warning: Violence is not shown during Jesus' trial but is seen immediately after the video segment suggested. Continuing to watch the crucifixion after the clip is not recommended due to the violence depicted. A non-graphic crucifixion video of Luke 23:26-55 is available at bit.ly/GCEDCrucifixion, should you choose to watch the story of the crucifixion.

Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

1. Jesus was captured in the Garden of Gethsemane and taken to Annas, the father-in-law of the Jewish high priest. From there He was taken to Caiaphas, the high priest. What recommendation did Caiaphas make? (John 18:14)
2. Why did the Jews want to try Jesus? What were their accusations against Him? Were their accusations just?
3. Two distinctly separate groups of officials were present at Jesus' trial. Who were they?
4. Why did the Jewish rulers want Jesus to be tried by the Romans? Why couldn't they try Him themselves and achieve the outcome they hoped for?
5. Did Pilate understand the accusations of the Jews?
6. Did Pilate support the accusations of the Jews?
7. Why didn't Pilate find any reason to condemn Jesus when the Jews saw important reasons to condemn Him?
8. Was Pilate happy to do what the Jews wanted? Or was He afraid?

9. How is Pilate's question, "What is truth?" relevant today?
10. Why did Pilate release Barabbas? Could he have released Jesus instead? Who got to choose the person who was to be released.
11. Immediately after being condemned, Jesus was led to Calvary (also called Golgotha) to be crucified. Calvary was a site just outside the city of Jerusalem that was used to execute prisoners. Pilate put a sign over Jesus that said, "Jesus of Nazareth, The King of the Jews." Why might the Jews take exception to these words? (See John 19:21)
12. Compare Christian and New Church ideas about the crucifixion:
 - Christians believe that through crucifixion and the blood of the cross Jesus took away the sins of all humankind, and that if we believe in Him, we are saved through His act.
 - The New Church teaches that the crucifixion was Jesus' final temptation, and that through this act He fought and overcame the hells that attacked Him throughout His life on earth. In doing this He made the human nature He inherited from Mary, His earthly mother, Divine. Through His victory over the hells a new pathway to heaven was opened, and that in choosing that pathway we can be saved.
9. Many Christian churches have cross on the altar. The New Church has an open Word. Compare these two objects as symbols for the Lord.
10. What is the difference between a crucifix and a cross?

Death by Crucifixion

In Ancient Rome, crucifixion was used to punish slaves, pirates, and enemies of the state. It was considered the most disgraceful way to die. Condemned Roman citizens were usually exempt from crucifixion, except when they were being punished for major crimes against the state, such as high treason.

It could take hours to days for a crucified person to die. The cause of death might be heart failure, shock, pulmonary embolism or asphyxia. Death could also be caused by infection due to the wounds caused by the nails or by the scourging that often preceded crucifixion, or eventual dehydration. One theory suggests that when the whole body weight was supported by the stretched arms, the typical cause of death was asphyxiation. The condemned would have difficulty inhaling due to hyper-expansion of the chest muscles and lungs, and would draw himself up by his arms, leading to exhaustion, or have his feet supported by tying or by a wood block. When he could no longer able to lift himself, the condemned would die within minutes.

Occasionally, scourging preceded crucifixion, causing the condemned to lose a large amount of blood, and go into shock. The convict then often carried the horizontal beam to the place of execution. Crucifixion was typically carried out by specialized teams, consisting of a commanding centurion and four soldiers. When done in an established place of execution, the vertical beam could be permanently embedded in the ground. Corpses of the crucified were typically left on the crosses to decompose and be eaten by animals.

Since the attending Roman guards could only leave the site after the victim had died, guards would try to speed death up by fracturing the leg bones, wounding the heart with a spear or building a smoking fire at the foot of the cross to asphyxiate the victim.

Constantine the Great, the first Christian emperor, abolished crucifixion in the Roman Empire in 337AD out of veneration for Jesus Christ.

Adapted from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crucifixion>

New Church Concept The Final Temptation

The Lord came into the world that He might save the human race, which otherwise would have perished. He saved them by subjugating the hells—which infested every person coming into the world and going out of the world—and at the same time by glorifying His Human. See *New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine* 293

All the hells fought against the Lord's love, which was the salvation of the whole human race. *Arcana Coelestia* 2819

That the Lord made His Human Divine by means of temptations admitted into Himself, and by means of continual victories in them. Temptations are nothing but combats against evils and falsities; and as evils and falsities are from hell, temptations are combats against hell. The Lord fought from His own power against all the hells, and completely mastered and subjugated them. Before the Lord's advent the hells had grown up to such a height that they were beginning to infest the very angels of heaven, and also every man that came into the world and went out of it. No one could have been saved unless the Lord had come into the world. *Doctrine of the Lord* 33.1-3

The passion of the cross was the final combat, whereby He fully conquered the hells and fully glorified His Human. *Doctrine of the Lord* 12

The Lord did not take away sins by the passion of the cross. He takes removes them, in those who believe in Him by living according to His commandments. See *Doctrine of the Lord* 17.3