

GROWTHguide

"The Trial"

March 18, 2018



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Matthew 27:11-26, Luke 22:66-71

DAY 1

On Sunday Pastor Bob described three things that influenced the trial of Jesus: the greed and envy of the priests, the hatred of Barabbas, and the indifference of Pilate. Without these people, acting on these sins, Jesus would not have been sentenced to die. **Did you see yourself in any of the people described?**

- **Do you ever envy what others have or want to tear down others to raise yourself like the priests?**
- **Do you let anger and hatred make you an enemy of others like Barabbas?**
- **Do you ever find it hard to stand up against the crowd to do what you know is the right thing like Pilate?**

DAY 2

Pilate knew that the Jewish leaders had their own motives for putting Jesus, an innocent man, on trial. He could have used his power to save Jesus, but instead he tried to satisfy the bloodthirsty crowd. He had nothing against Jesus himself, but he was indifferent to his responsibility to carry out justice. He wasn't going to risk himself or his standing to do what was right.

- **Have you ever taken a risk for Jesus?**
- **Think of a time when you let yourself be swayed from doing what you knew was right. What caused you to make that choice? What happened afterward?**

DAY 3

In today's world, many times the people we admire are like Barabbas, people who take matters into their own hands and use force, violence or trickery to get their own way. God responds to evil differently. Instead of the warrior king many of the people wanted, who would have confronted violence with violence, Jesus took the sting of death upon himself and absorbed it. Meeting violence with violence continues a tragic cycle of death and pain, but Jesus interrupted that cycle with his sacrifice.

- **Do you have any heroes who are like Barabbas? What is it that draws you to them?**
- **How have you responded to conflict in your own life? Why is it so hard for us to let go of a fight?**

DAY 4

The priests violated their own rules for a fair trial in the Sanhedrin because their purpose was not to serve justice, but to convict Jesus. Sometimes we are also guilty of twisting logic or of finding reasons to justify the things we want to do, even if they are not what Jesus called us to do or if they go against the moral rules we normally live by.

- **Have you ever made a decision first and then found a way to justify it? Looking back, has your perspective on that decision changed?**
- **Think about a time when you chose to do what you wanted instead of what God wanted. How did you justify it?**

Pray and ask God to help you let go of yourself and your wants so that you can be more like him.

DAY 5

Pastor Bob ended his message with a call to choose Jesus. It's not always easy! Sometimes it means taking a risk or making a sacrifice, but what good is faith that only exists when things are easy? Each time we take a risk, in faith, it moves us further away from living independent from God and closer to living a life secure in God's promises.

- **What are you willing to give for Jesus?**

Pray today about the times when you have chosen something else over Jesus. Ask God to help you choose Jesus, even when it's scary or difficult.

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