

the road to the cross

Week 3 - Trial

mark 14-16

1. From what you know of legal trials (perhaps from TV shows), what are some of the things that are required for a person to be found guilty?

As we continue in our series on Jesus' final week on earth, we've seen already that Jesus is aware that his time is nearly up. People have had different responses to Jesus, and even those close to him have wrestled with remaining true to him. Last week Jesus was arrested, and now the story continues...

Read Mark 14:53-65

2. As a group, act out the story of these verses. The following information may help you:

High Priest – The main religious official in the Jewish religion. He was a very powerful political leader, who was also the head of the Sanhedrin (see below).
Chief Priests – Other high ranking religious officials in the Jewish religion.
Sanhedrin – The ruling council of Jews made up of seventy men. They would judge on matters of whether or not someone had broken Jewish laws. They could not sentence people to death however, without the permission of the Roman governor.

3. In what ways is Jesus under a new set of pressures in this section of events?
4. Imagine that you were on the jury in this trial. Does the evidence that is being presented point towards Jesus being guilty or not guilty? Why? (Hint: check out John 2:18-21)
5. What is it that finally convinces the jury of Jesus' 'guilt'?
 - a. Why do you think that this would have caused such a big fuss?

Read Isaiah 53:4-9

6. In what ways are the actions of the man in this passage similar to the actions of Jesus before the Sanhedrin in Mark 14?

Jesus promised his people (in Isaiah 53 and other passages in the Old Testament) that he would send a saviour to rescue them from their sins. Jesus came as that promised saviour (or 'Messiah', or 'Christ') both for God's people back then and for us now.

7. Read Mark 14:61-62 again. If Jesus truly is the Christ, then what does this mean:

a. For our understanding of how our rebellion against God is dealt with?

b. For the kind of relationship that we can have with Jesus?

8. Reflect – does your life demonstrate that you are living in a way which acknowledges that Jesus is the Christ? In what ways?

Pray as a group to thank God for sending Jesus as his promised saviour. Pray that we would be impacted by what Jesus has done for us, and that we would live in a way which reflects this.