

A Place Called Calvary

1st - 3rd Grade
Lesson 10

The Crucifixion of Christ

Whose fault is it that Jesus was crucified? Was it the Roman soldiers that hammered the nails into His hands and feet? Was it the Roman governor, Pilate, who ordered Jesus to be killed? Was it the chief priests who got the mob to cry out, "Crucify him" (Mark 15:14)? We are going to look at God's Word to find out who was to blame.

Evidence Against the Roman Soldiers

The soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear. (John 19:34) They made a crown of thorns and put it on His head. (John 19:2) They made fun of Him. (Luke 23:36-37) And they crucified Him. (John 19:23)

But there was one Roman commander there that day that watched Jesus die. He saw the sky grow very dark in the middle of the day. He had trouble standing when the earth shook under him. He heard Jesus cry out to His Father when He died. He knew that Jesus had to be God's Son.

Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

—Matthew 27:54

Evidence against Pilate

Pilate was the governor of Jerusalem. His word was law. He said, "Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him" (Luke 23:22). Pilate could have let Jesus go.

Pilate was afraid the people would make the king, Caesar, angry. If Pilate didn't kill Jesus, would the people complain to Caesar? What would Caesar do to him?

Pilate took the easy way out. He told the people that he would not kill Jesus. But he said they could kill Jesus if they wanted to. (Matthew 27:24)

Evidence Against the Chief Priests

Do you remember Moses' brother, Aaron? God chose Aaron to be the first high priest. Aaron and his sons and their sons after them were to be God's priests. The people brought their sacrifices to the priests. Then the priests offered the sacrifices to God. They were supposed to obey God's laws. They were supposed to teach God's laws to the people.

These priests heard Jesus teach in the synagogue. They were jealous of Jesus. Even Pilate "knew that for envy they had delivered him" (Matthew 27:18).

The chief priests were also afraid of Jesus. They knew about God. They knew God said He would send a Savior. But they did not understand that Jesus was the One God had sent. All of

the people listened to Jesus. This made the chief priests hate Jesus. They hated Him so much that they wanted to kill Him. Luke 24:20 says that “the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.”

Evidence Against You and Me

Was Pilate the one who killed Jesus? Was it the soldiers? Or was it the chief priests? Oh, these people did not believe in Jesus. They treated Jesus in an awful way. But Jesus says that they did not kill Him:

I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.

—John 10:17b-18

John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Jesus gave Himself to die on the cross because He loved you and me.

Conclusion

We know that Jesus died because of our sin. So what should we do about it? First, we must be saved. We must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. If you have not yet been saved, ask Jesus to save you today.

After we are saved, the next thing God wants us to do is to be baptized. (Acts 10:48)

He also wants us to tell others that He loves them. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. We must tell everyone we can how to be saved. (Mark 16:15)

Teacher's Notes
