

LESSON AIM: Trust in Jesus to save you from sin's punishment.

KEY SCRIPTURES: John 18

REVIEW QUESTIONS: (*“Ok, who remembers from last week’s lesson...”*)

- 1) Who is our neighbor?
- 2) What are some things you did this past week to show God’s love in action?
- 3) Can someone explain last week’s Bible verse in their own words?

I. INTRODUCTION

When was the last time you were punished for doing something wrong? Perhaps you were punished because you failed to clean your room or because you didn't pay attention to your parents' curfew. Perhaps you were punished because you got into a fight at school or because you were talking when you were supposed to be listening to your teacher. Often we are punished because we do something wrong. The Bible tells us of One who was severely punished although He was innocent--He had done nothing to deserve His punishment. He had gathered with His closest friends in a quiet garden when suddenly the silence of the night was broken by the sound of approaching soldiers.

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

A. Judas, accompanied by a crowd of Roman soldiers carrying swords and clubs, found Jesus with His disciples and betrayed Him with a kiss on the cheek. **(18:1-3; Matthew 26:49).**

[Judas, one of the 12 disciples, had agreed to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. The agreed signal was a kiss, which the Jews customarily used to express affection and reverence.]

B. As Jesus willingly submitted to the soldiers, Peter impetuously cut off the ear of Malchus--the high priest's servant, but Jesus restored it, commanding Peter to put away his sword **(18:4-11; Luke 22:50, 51).**

C. The soldiers bound Jesus and brought Him to Annas, the former Jewish high priest, and then to Caiphas, the reigning high priest, for questioning and trial **(18:12-14, 19-24).**

D. After false witnesses testified against Jesus, Caiphas denounced Jesus' claim to being God's Son and allowed the members of the court to blindfold, beat, and spit on Him **(Mark 15:16, 20; Luke 22:63-65).**

Why would Jesus allow me to accuse Him of lying and treat Him so cruelly? He did it because of His love for you and me. Jesus' suffering and cruel treatment was part of this plan which He willingly allowed because of His love for you **(Luke 24:46).**

E. The soldiers then brought Jesus to Pilot, who asked Jesus if He was a king. Jesus replied that He was, but "not of this world" **(18:28-37).**

[Pilate was concerned that Jesus posed a political threat to Rome. Jesus assured him that His kingdom did not rival Rome: it was of another place—heaven.]

F. Although Governor Pilate found no fault in Jesus, he sent Him to Herod, another Roman ruler, who mocked and ridiculed Jesus and then returned Him to Pilate's court **(Luke 23:6-12).**

G. When Governor Pilate asked the Jews if he should release to them Jesus or Barabbas, a well-known rebel and murderer, they responded by shouting for Barabbas's release and Jesus' crucifixion **(John 18:39-40).** How sad that the people apparently didn't realize who they were condemning to death. Jesus was God, the Son. Being God's perfect Son, Jesus had no hatred for the crowd even as

they cried out for His death. If only they would have realized who He really was.

H. To satisfy the Jews, Pilate had Jesus whipped and a purple robe placed on His shoulders and a crown of thorns on His head, but still the Jews demanded His death **(19:1-15)**.

[The whipping was done using strips of leather embedded with pieces of metal and bone. The purple robe, suggesting royalty, and the crown of thorns were used to mock Christ's declaration of kingship.]

I. Jesus was crucified along with two criminals--one on His left and one on His right **(19:17-22)**.

J. As Jesus looked down from the cross upon the soldiers who had crucified Him, He asked God to forgive them **(19:23-24; Luke 23:34)**.

Although the soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross and mocked Him as the blood flowed from His hands and feet, Jesus still loved the soldiers and had compassion on them. Because Jesus was dying for their sins, He could ask God to forgive them. Christ's payment for sin applies to our lives as well. The Bible says that we have "redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" **(Colossians 1:14)**. Jesus had promised that His suffering on the cross and resurrection from the dead would pay for all sin. You can trust in Jesus to save you from sin's punishment. As He suffered and died, Jesus still had compassion on the soldiers who mocked Him.

III. CLIMAX

Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" and died on the cross, taking the punishment for all sin forever **(19:30)**.

IV. ENDING

A. Conclusion

1. Joseph of Aramathea, a wealthy follower of Jesus, obtained permission to take Jesus' body and then buried Him in a new tomb **(19:38-42)**.

2. Concerned that Jesus' disciples might steal His body and claim that He had risen from the dead, Governor Pilate sealed the tomb and placed a guard outside **(Matthew 27:62-66)**.

B. Invitation

Although Pilate did not believe that Jesus would rise from the dead, he was wrong. Jesus, the powerful Son of God, conquered death by rising from the dead in three days--just as He had promised. Jesus has also promised to forgive your sins and to give you eternal life if you will believe in Him. The Bible says, **(John 5:24)**. To believe in Jesus means to admit to God that you are a sinner, and to trust in Jesus to save you from sin's punishment. Have you ever told God that you want forgiveness of your sins and eternal life? If not, you can do so right now...

MEMORY VERSE:

"The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world."

I John 4:14b