

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

March 2016

## *John: Jesus is the Christ*

### **Lesson #20: The Trial**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

What do you think is *the* most famous trial? Why?

#### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

*Note: In Jewish law, no one could be sentenced on the day their trial was held. There are many events over a short period of time because there was little sleep involved. Judas' offer accelerated the leadership's timetable. The trial was illegal under Jewish Law, but they had to finish before Passover started. If they couldn't convict and kill Jesus, He would become even more popular. It is before dawn Friday morning. There may have been as many as 500 soldiers at the arrest. Only Pilate had the authority to dispatch so many troops, probably fearing insurrection.*

#### **Read John 18:1-11; MT 26:52-56**

1. Compare the atmosphere of the first and third verses.
2. What indications do we have that Jesus' surrender was voluntary? That He was in control?
3. What is unusual about the crowd's response in verse six?
4. Why did Jesus ask for the disciples' release? John 17:12
5. What motivated Peter to attack the guard in verse 10? Mark 14:31
6. What does Jesus' response to Peter's attack say about Jesus and his motivation?
7. According to MT 26:56b, how did the disciples respond to Jesus' arrest? What was their motivation?

*Note: Jesus had to be tried by Jewish religious laws (3 phases) and convicted by Roman political laws. They were looking for enough false testimony to have Romans execute Him. The closest accusation was that of tearing down and rebuilding the temple because it could have involved sorcery and sedition. Witnesses were the "prosecutors" and had to have rigidly matching testimony. The priests were supposed to defend the accused. The accused was not expected to testify against himself. Caiaphas' question in Matt 26:63-66 put Jesus under oath and settled the religious and political question. Jesus finally answered plainly who He was.*

#### **Read John 18:12-14; Matthew 26:57-67**

8. What was Jesus' answer to Annas's questions?
9. What was the meaning of Jesus' warning in MT 26:64?
10. Why did Caiaphas react so strongly? How do some people react today to the claims of Jesus?

#### **APPLICATION**

- Jesus said in verse 9 that He has the power to preserve and protect His servants. How does this truth bolster your Christian walk?
- Many people at the trial recognized Jesus for His divinity but didn't make Him their savior. Who do you know that needs to accept His work at the cross for their sins *and* make Him their savior?

*If it is true that the Sanhedrin was guilty for its refusal to hear the defense of Jesus, how much more guilty are people today who refuse His claims. Today we have the New Testament, the resurrection and the Holy Spirit. If we refuse today, we are guiltier than the Sanhedrin. Boice p. 1256*