

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

JESUS SENTENCED TO DEATH

International Sunday School Lesson
For June 5

Memory Selection: "Christ . . . when he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten."—I Peter 2:21-23.

Lesson Text: John 19:1-16.

The student will notice that while we have been studying the Gospel of Mark since the first of the year, the account of the trial and sentencing to death of Jesus is taken from the Gospel of John, because the Apostle John gives a more detailed account, having been present for some, if not all, of the proceedings, probably being the disciple "who stood afar off."

Immediately, after the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, he was hurried before a group of Sanhedrists who had been hastily summoned together by the chief priest. Since a formal trial could not be held at night, under Jewish law, all that could be done was to hold a preliminary investigation, the object of which was to see what charges could be laid against the prisoner and to determine the procedure to be followed in order that those charges might be pressed against him.

Although they had Jesus in their power, it was not at all easy for them to decide what to do with him. They knew, of course, that he must die but they also knew that there must be charges brought against him which would make him guilty of death and that these charges would have to be proved so that the Roman Governor would pronounce the sentence of death upon him.

Then there were the people to take into consideration. It being the time of the celebration of the passover, Jerusalem was filled with religious pilgrims from all over Palestine and among them were the Galileans and these Galileans were proud of this prophet of theirs. True, Judas had told them that this Jesus had claimed to be the long promised Messiah of the Jews and while this claim had not been made public in so many words, Jesus had acted with all the authority of the Lord's Anointed, one of the chief reasons why the Sadducees had determined to get rid of him.

To have Jesus condemned to death on the ground that he had claimed to be the Messiah might be dangerous. Therefore, they must have him sentenced on a ground which would condemn him in the eyes of the people. They decided to bring charges against him of having assailed the temple, which, in the minds of the people, was blasphemy indeed. Didn't he predict that the beloved edifice would soon be destroyed? They seized upon this prophecy, twisted it and secured two false witnesses who would testify that Jesus had claimed that he could destroy the temple and, in three days, build it again. Realizing that they could not take Jesus before Pilate on a charge of blasphemy, they trumped up a political charge, that he claimed to be the King of the Jews.

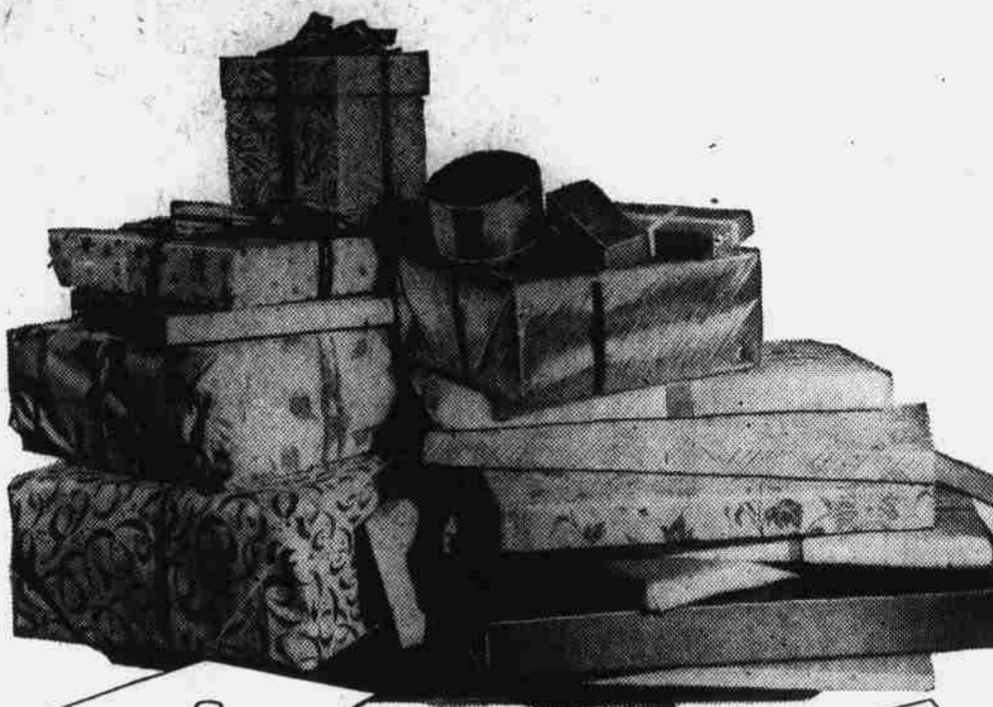
Pilate was in a difficult position for a politician. He was not a bad man, nor an immoral one, but he was a politician, having to keep the Jews satisfied, on the one hand and the Romans satisfied on the other. Therefore, he found himself in the position of being unable to take sides in this matter. If he refused to condemn this prisoner, whom he knew to be really innocent of the charges brought against him, he would infuriate the ruling class of the Jews. If this brought about a rebellion, then he would be in disfavor with Caesar, in Rome. Wanting to do right, but weakly submitting to the wrong, Pilate, played politics with the life of Jesus, keeping his office but crucifying his savior!

So, in the end, the Sadducees had their way. Led by them, the crowds shouted: "Crucify him, crucify him!" And when Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" the chief priest answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then, John tells, "Therefore, he delivered him unto them to be crucified."

Henry Ward Beecher aptly reminds us, "He who goes about mourning and saying, 'It is too bad, but I can do nothing to prevent it'—he is a Pilate."

BE A BETTER
CITIZEN!

GO TO SOME
CHURCH
NEXT SUNDAY



A gift for the graduate! What shall it be? A pen, a watch, clothes, money? Yes, any of these gifts will bring joy to the young graduate.

And so it's just a matter of choice. We make our purchase, and see that the package is delivered with our congratulations.

It is natural and right that we should yield to these generous impulses. But at a time when young people begin their own careers, with their own decisions to make, we should see that they are fortified with gifts that make for character and good living. At this turning point in life, we should do all in our power to help them establish their careers upon the strong foundations of godliness, love, honesty, charity, and friendship.

Let us give our graduates gifts of lasting quality. By example and advice let us teach them the merits of Christian living. Let us bring them with us to our churches, where they will find the greatest gift of all—the gift of God's love.

THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . . ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Book	Chapter	Verse
Sunday . . . Matthew	6	19-22
Monday . . . II Timothy	6	17-19
Tuesday . . . Matthew	19	16-22
Wednesday . . . Psalms	821	1-6
Thursday . . . Luke	5	33-39
Friday . . . James	2	14-17
Saturday . . . Matthew	13	45-52

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Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
C. W. Duling, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

BETHLEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST
Harold C. Turner, Pastor
Church services first and third Sunday at 3:00 P. M.
Christian Union, 7:30 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. R. Byerly, Pastor
Church services first and third Sunday at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.
Church service 7:45 P. M. second and fourth Sundays.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES
E. B. Edwards, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 3:00 P. M.
Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.
Woodland Church, 7:30 P. M.
Third Sunday
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:30 P. M.
Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:30 P. M.
Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church at 7:30 P. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. W. Davis, Supply Pastor
Sunday School, 11 A. M. every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
Elizabeth White, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services, 11 A. M.
Christian Endeavor, 8:30 P. M.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. E. G. Willis, Pastor
Sunday School, 10 A. M.
Preaching first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Preaching second and fourth Sunday evening at 7:30.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS MEETING
Bertha V. Smith White, Minister
Bible School, 10 A. M.
Meeting for worship, 11 A. M.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
G. M. Singletary, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:30 A. M. on first and third Sundays and 2:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.
Church services, 3:00 P. M. on second and fourth Sundays.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
D. L. Fouts, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
E. T. Jilson, Rector
Holy Communion, 9:00 A. M.
Every Sunday except first Sunday at 9:00 A. M.
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 o'clock.
Holy Communion first Sunday at 11 A. M.

BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Walker Perry, Pastor
Bible School 10:30 A. M., except first Sunday, at 10 A. M.
Morning worship on first Sunday at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first Sunday at 7 P. M.

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
A. H. Outlaw, Pastor
Sunday School, 2 P. M. every first Sunday.
Church Service 3 P. M. every first Sunday.
Sunday School at 11 A. M. every second, third and fourth Sunday.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Go