

Jesus' Trial - Jesus the Truth

Foundation

Bible passage: Mk 14.53-65, Lk 23.1-5 & Jn 14.6

Jesus' Trial (Mk 14.53-65 & Lk 23.1-5)

In the previous module we saw how Jesus was put on trial and questioned by the Sanhedrin, Pontius Pilate and King Herod Antipas. Mark tells us that they were seeking testimony against Jesus but found none (v55). Many apparently lied about the things Jesus had said, but they did not agree amongst themselves (v56). The fourth commandment, “you shall not bear false witness”, is the subject of the next unit.

Mark also mentions a specific false accusation to do with tearing down the Temple. In fact, Jesus had said something like this early in His ministry (John 2.19) but people distorted what He said. False witness is not just blatant lies but also distorting or misrepresenting the truth. That accusation was dredged up to mock Jesus on the cross (Mk 15.29). The Temple was destroyed about 40 years later.

We don't know for certain why the people said what they did. Presumably they were in cahoots with the religious leaders who wanted a reason to have Jesus put to death. They could not do this themselves and needed a reason to get Pontius Pilate to sentence Jesus to death.

Before the Roman Governor, Pilate, various accusations were made (Lk 23.2). They were right in saying that Jesus claimed to be the Christ, and so a King, though He told Pilate His kingdom is not of this world. But the claim that he was forbidding people giving tribute to Caesar was a



Christ before Pilate, Mihály Munkácsy, 1881

lie and the opposite of what Jesus had taught (Lk 20.25).

Luke tells us that Pilate found Jesus not guilty (23.4). So, the leaders made another accusation that Jesus was stirring up people. This was true, but hardly a crime. Pilate used that as an excuse to send Jesus to Herod. Eventually Pilate concluded that Jesus was not guilty but under pressure from the leaders and crowds he nevertheless sentenced Him to death.

“I am the way, the truth and the life” - Jn 14.6

Although lies were told about Jesus to have him put to death Jesus called Himself “the truth”. This is very important for Christians because Jesus shows us the truth about God in a way that no-one else can (see Jn 14.9-11).

Christians also believe that Jesus is completely reliable and trustworthy. He calls us to believe in Him; that is to trust Him with our lives. If we did not believe He was trustworthy then it would be foolish to trust Him.

“I am .. the truth..”



Witnesses lied about Jesus to try to have him put to death. Jesus not only told the truth but shows us the truth about God.