

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Ten

THE TRIAL AND JUDGMENT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Scripture reading: Matt. 26:56--27:32; Luke 22:54 to 23:25

Burden to Impart:

The cruel and unrighteous judgment of man only caused the glory and virtue of the Lord Jesus to be more manifest.

The Lord Jesus victoriously passed through many tests from many people after coming into Jerusalem (the scribes, lawyers, Pharisees, Sadducees, and Herodians). Now, after being unrighteously arrested in the garden, He passed through three more unrighteous trials and judgments where He was falsely accused, lied against, mocked, spit upon, beat in the face, His beard pulled, crowned with a crown of thorns, beat on the head with a reed, stripped, and scourged with a whip. He did not resist His accusers or defend Himself. Rather, He was silent before the Jewish Sanhedrin and the two Roman governors, Pilate and Herod. He stood before all these unrighteous judgments as the spotless Lamb of God. He was "silent before His shearers" (Isa. 53:7). The judges were unrighteous and all the disciples were weak and forsook Him. Only Jesus passed every test. He stood in dignity and even His accusers and judges marveled at His conduct. He answered nothing to His accusers' false accusations. He only responded affirmatively when they asked Him questions concerning whether He was the Son of God, the King of the Jews.

All mankind rejected the Lord Jesus. But the darker and more unrighteous the situation became, the brighter Jesus, the righteous Son of God, shone in His human virtue.

Memory Verse: "He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth" (Isaiah 53:7).

Facts to Teach:

1. The Lord was judged all night long by the highest Jewish authority, the Sanhedrin, by Caiaphas the high priest. False witnesses were sought, but their stories did not even match each other. Finally, He was falsely condemned for "blasphemy" because He admitted to the truth; He was the Son of God. He was then spit upon, beat on the face, mocked, and slapped.
2. During this trial Peter, who had followed the Lord at a distance, denied Him three times (Matt. 26:69-75). Peter, so full of self-confidence and pride, failed the test when asked by the little maids if he was a disciple of Jesus. He lied and swore he didn't know Him, denying his Lord, to his bitter sorrow.
3. In the morning Jesus was brought to Pilate to be judged. The Jewish leaders had no authority to condemn a man to death, so they brought the Lord before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. As He was being falsely accused, the Lord Jesus answered nothing. He only confirmed Pilate's question that He was indeed the King of the Jews.
4. Because Jesus was from Galilee and the case was very delicate, Pilate took the opportunity to get rid of the Lord, sending Him to Herod, the governor of Galilee (Luke 23:6-7).
5. Pilate told the people that he did not find any fault in the Lord Jesus, but that He was a "righteous man." According to custom, one condemned criminal would be released at this time of Passover. Pilate proposed that Jesus be released. However, the people screamed and shouted that they wanted Barabbas, a murderer, released and that they wanted Jesus to be crucified.

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Lesson Ten (continued)

6. Pilate was a weak and "chicken" man. He was also an unrighteous judge. He said "O.K." to the people's cry. He tried to remove any guilt from himself for doing such an evil deed by putting the responsibility on the people. So he washed his hands in front of them and said, "I am innocent of the blood of this righteous man."
7. Then they put Jesus' garments back on Him and led Him away to crucify Him. By that time He was too exhausted, injured, and weak to continue carrying the heavy cross, so a man named Simon was compelled to carry it for Him (Matt. 27:32).

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Songs for Lesson Ten

THE TRIAL AND JUDGEMENT OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Tune: "Kumbaya."

 D G D
How You suffered, Lord, under men,
 G A
How You suffered, Lord, under men,
 D G D
How You suffered, Lord, under men,
 G D A D
Men whom You had made.

You were falsely judged for the truth,
You were falsely judged for the truth,
You were falsely judged for the truth,
Silent as a lamb.

Then You died for us, Savior, Lord,
Then You died for us, Savior, Lord,
Then You died for us, Savior, Lord;
You loved us so much.

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(Story for Lesson 10)

THE TRIAL AND JUDGEMENT OF THE LORD JESUS

Memory verse: He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb (silent), so He openeth not His mouth.
Isiah 53:7

The Lord Jesus stood silently before the greatest powers of that day to be judged. They each had a chance to see Him in many trials. He was being tested for death. Not to save Him from an unrighteous death but a trial to put Him to death. Why? Because this was God's will--to work out the Passover Sacrifice, to take away the sins of all the world. And the Spotless Son of God obeyed the Father in every way.

Did these people really know who the Lord Jesus was? Some did but many did not. After it was all over many, many remembered and could believe. Even you and me, as we read about this trial and judgement--and see Him as the Son of God--we will believe. It would be hard not to.

The Lord Jesus stood before many people at these trials. He was their Creator and had given them the very life by which they were living. But in their hate and blindness they wanted to take from Him His own life. Even every law He had given them they had to break to condemn Him and kill Him. But as a sheep before her shearers is dumb (silent), He opened not His mouth.

Just hours before, Judas had led a band of soldiers to the garden where Jesus and His disciples were; then they tied and brought our Lord before the religious leaders. These priests and scribes and pharisees questioned Him and could find no fault in Him. Then He was brought before the Sanhedrin, the highest religious court, where they tried in vain to find something against Him. Then they used His own words that He was the King of the Jews to accuse Him, saying that they had no king but Caesar. They lied saying that He tried to cause a revolt against the Roman government. Pilot took the Lord into his quarters to question and examine Him. Soon he came out to the people saying that he found "no fault in Him at all." He knew that the Lord Jesus was a truly righteous man and he himself was unrighteous. What could he do now? He decided to send Jesus to Herod, also a governor. Herod could not find any fault in the Lord Jesus and because he did not care for the Jews, he sent Him back to Pilot.

Now that Jesus was back with him again, Pilot wanted to free himself and perhaps the Lord, so he ordered Him to be scourged. This could prove the Lord Jesus innocent and perhaps even avoid the crucifixion. By their law a criminal could either be scourged or crucified. Not both.

Do you know what scourging is? I will tell you what it is. Scourging is a heavy beating that will force anyone to tell the truth. The terrible Roman scourging was done by a trained man using a scourge of many leather whips filled with sharp metal pieces tied onto a short piece of wood. The victim was bent over a low iron post to which his hands and feet were tied. It was after the or second blow that he would confess any wrong he had done.

This is what they did to the Lord Jesus. Only in their cruelty they did not stop and He could not stop them to confess to any wrong. So they continued blow after blow. When those guarding decided the next blow would kill Him, they halted. They asked Him if He really was the Son of God and the King of Israel. He did not deny it. Perhaps that was when they threw over Him a scarlet-red robe and placed a cruel crown made of thornes on His head. On their way returning Him to Pilot they made sport of Him, bowing to Him and hitting Him on His thorn-crowned head and asking Him to be the Prophet and tell them who hit Him. And they did many other dreadful things to Him.

The priests were anxious to get the crucifixion going, so they prepared the people to call out, "Crucify Him" when Jesus would be brought back to Pilot. The soldiers did arrive and Pilot looked at Jesus.. Pilot saw the dreadful sight. He could only exclaim to all, "Behold, the Man!"

The Man who was the Son of God — The Man for the Sacrifice. He already bore up all the world. Now He was ready to take on all the weight of all the world's sin. He was standing there to battle Satan and free all creation.

He stood alone. No friend. No disciple. Only a little rooster, a part of His creation, had called out three times that dark night with all his might to remind Peter and all of us not to deny our Lord Jesus Christ.