

Last week, Dr. Baucom spoke about **Gethsemane**, the second in a series considering the events that occurred in the last 24 hours of Jesus' life on earth, as we lead up to Easter and then the 24 hours following His resurrection. This week, we will continue that series with **Truth and Consequence**.

1. Have you ever seen someone picked on for no reason at all, at least not a reason that warranted the abuse? How do you think they felt? How did you feel witnessing it? Did it cause you to do anything? What did you do? Why? How did you feel? If you did nothing, why not? How did that make you feel?

2. Read and reflect on the following passages that record the trial and torture of Jesus following his arrest.

- Matthew 26:57-27:27
- Mark 14:53-15:20
- Luke 22:54-23:25
- John 18:12-19:16

- What are some of the *differences* that you find in each passage? What are the *similarities*?
- On a separate piece of paper, see if you can create a time line using each of the gospel narratives.
- List the cast of characters and their roles in the trial and torture of Jesus.

3. Pilate, the Roman Governor, interrogated Jesus. In the following passages, read the account of his questioning.

- Luke 23:1-7**
- Mark 15:2-5**
- Matthew 11- 14**
- John 18-28-37**

- What was Pilate's line of questioning?
- How did Jesus respond?
- What was Pilate's reaction to Jesus' response in Matthew 27:14?

4. Flogging was a means of painful torture. A whip with pieces of metal or glass tied to the ends of the whip's tentacles was traditionally used. It is said

that 40 lashes was a death sentence. Jesus was to receive 39. Read the following verses gleaning insight and understanding.

- Luke 23:16**
- Mark 15:15**
- Matthew 27: 26**
- John 19:1**
- Hebrews 11:36**
- Acts 22:24**

5. Re-read **Mark 15:6-16, Luke 23:13-25, John 18:38; and Matthew 27: 15-25** focusing on the role of the *crowd* or *people*.

- How did they behave?
- What was their role in Jesus' trial and fateful outcome?
- What might have been their motive?
- Have you ever been swayed by the crowd?
- Have you ever put Jesus in this position from a decision or statement you have made?

6. Read and reflect on this definition of mocking: *To treat with ridicule or contempt; deride. To frustrate the hopes of; disappoint.* Now, read the following passages and reflect on the soldiers' mockery of Jesus.

- Mark 15:16-20**
- Matthew 27:27-31**
- John 19: 2-3**

- Why do you think the soldiers were mocking Jesus?
- What might have been their motives for mocking Jesus?
- Did they seem to receive pleasure from mocking Him?
- Why do we mock people?
- Have you ever been a part of mocking another person? Why? How did you feel?

7. Reflect on all that you have read and any insight you have gained through your study this week. How can we prepare ourselves to respond in different ways? Avoid abusing others through mocking and false witness, and ridicule? How can we stand firm for Christ who withstood this torture and mocking for us?