

INSTEAD OF ME

Matthew 26-28

Introduction: Matthew 26:57-27:26

This week we are concluding our Bible study series “Instead of Me.” Pastor J.D. will continue the sermon series through the Easter weekend. Next week Summit small groups will stay in Matthew and discuss Christ’s resurrection and the Great Commission in D-group. This week we will look at Jesus’ two trials, one before the Sanhedrin and one before Pilate.

This week’s main point:

Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and is revealed in his trials before those who rejected him.

The purpose of the trials was that Jesus would be put to death. Matthew emphasizes the lies propounded by the leaders gathered against Jesus. The leaders were not telling these “witnesses” to lie, but they were not looking for the truth, either. This is a common way we think about issues we have already made up our mind about: We seek evidence that corroborates our desired outcome. But, between the lies and mishandling of justice, God had planned and was bringing about the salvation for everyone who believes what the Sanhedrin believed to be blasphemy—that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah. Amazingly, if the elders and priests had truly seen the evidence they were looking for, they would have worshiped instead of condemning Jesus.

Introductory Question:

1) What immediately comes to mind when you think about Lent, Passion Week, or Easter?

Read Matthew 26:57-75.

Bible Study Questions:

2) What stuck out to you when you read Matthew 26:57-75?

3) Did these verses raise any questions as you read them?

4) Why do you think this passage is in the Bible?

5) How was Jesus’ trial with the Sanhedrin unjust? This is a great time to reference your notes from the sermon.

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Read Matthew 27:1-26.

6) Go back and ask questions 2-4 of this passage.

- What stuck out to you when reading Matthew 27:1-26?

- Did these verses raise any questions as you read them?

- Why do you think this passage is in the Bible?

7) Who were the four people Pastor J.D. said were exposed in Jesus' trial before Pilate? What about each one was revealed?

8) With which of the people above do you most identify? In what ways do you identify with them?

Application Questions:

9) How do these two passages help us better understand the gospel?

10) How has this entire series shaped your perception or understanding of Jesus' death on the cross?

Prayer:

Jesus' answer to the Sanhedrin in Matthew 26:64 points us back to Psalm 110:1: "This is the declaration of the LORD to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool'" (CSB). Reflecting on this verse, pray through the ACTS model of prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication.