

17 March 2024 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group
“Jesus’ ‘Defense’ Secures His Death Sentence”-- Matthew 27:1-26

Questions to Answer from the Text:

1. Who made the decision to put Jesus to death (v. 1)?
2. Why did Judas end his life (vv. 3-4)?
3. What did Judas do with the money the Jewish authorities paid him to betray Jesus (v. 5)?
4. What did the chief priests do with the money they originally gave to Judas (vv. 6-10)?
5. Where did the Jewish ruling council take Jesus after they had finished their interrogation of Him (v. 11a)?
6. What question did Pilate ask Jesus (vv. 11b)?
7. What was Jesus’ response to the things of which He was being accused before Pilate (vv. 13-14)?
8. How did Pilate attempt to get Jesus released from custody (vv. 15-18)?
9. When Pilate tried to get Jesus released, whom did the crowds choose to release (vv. 20-23)?
10. What was Pilate’s decision about Jesus’ fate (vv. 24-26)?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

11. How would you assess Judas’ sense of guilt and shame?
12. When is feeling guilty a good thing? When is feeling guilty bad?
13. How would you counsel someone who is feeling guilty about an abortion? about divorce? about surviving a terrible accident when others with them did not?
14. What does it mean to be neutral?
15. Why is neutrality an illusion when dealing with Christ Jesus?
16. How do people try to be neutral about Jesus Christ?
17. How do you know if you are trying to be neutral about Christ?

18. How does your ignoring or disobeying Christ Jesus put Him “on trial,” so to speak?
19. In what ways are “generational sins” legitimate? In what ways are “generational sins” illegitimate?
20. How did God call to account the sins of the generation that called for Jesus to be crucified? Are present-day Jewish people responsible for the death of the Lord Jesus?