

## **Jesus before Pilate**

### **Discussion Questions for Mark 15:1-15**

1. In what situations have you felt the power of a group?
2. When have you ever been influenced by the opinions of a group?
3. When did the members of the Sanhedrin decide what to do with Jesus? (15:1)
4. What did all the religious leaders decide to do with Jesus? (15:1)
5. What did the Sanhedrin do with Jesus after deciding He was guilty? (15:1)
6. About what did Pilate question Jesus? (15:2)
7. How did Jesus respond to the Sanhedrin and Pilate? (15:2)
8. What prompted Pilate to goad Jesus about defending Himself? (15:3–4)
9. What amazed Pilate? (15:3–5)
10. How did Jesus react to the accusations raised against Him by the chief priests? (15:5)
11. What did Pilate think of Jesus? (15:5)
12. Who was Barabbas and what role did he play in this situation? (15:6–8)
13. What did the crowd ask Pilate to do for them? (15:8, 13)
14. Why did Pilate try to have Jesus released instead of Barabbas? How? (15:9–10)
15. Why did Pilate's attempt to release Jesus fail? (15:11–15)
16. What reason did the crowd give Pilate to crucify Jesus? (15:14)
17. How did the crowd influence Pilate's decision? (15:15)
18. What finally happened to Jesus? Why? (15:15)
19. Of those involved in trying and sentencing Jesus, who do you think bore the greater responsibility: the religious leaders or Pilate? Why?
20. Why do you think the Sanhedrin handed Jesus over to Pilate?
21. How did Jesus' enemies use lies and false accusations against Him?
22. How did Jesus' enemies manipulate public opinion against Him?
23. Why was Pilate amazed by Jesus' behavior?

24. Why do you think Pilate did what the crowd wanted?
25. When have you ever done something because the crowd pressured you to do it?
26. Why is group pressure so powerful?
27. What is difficult about standing up to the crowd?
28. Where do you often feel pressured by others to go against your Christian beliefs?
29. How can we remember to respond properly when pressured by the crowd?
30. Why didn't Jesus defend Himself?
31. When is it unimportant to defend ourselves or our actions?
32. What is difficult about being unpopular or disliked by a group?
33. Why is it so difficult to trust God with our reputation?
34. In what way can you entrust your reputation to God?
35. What reminder can you use this week to entrust your reputation to God each day?
36. What is one step you can take this week to strengthen your conviction against pressure from coworkers, friends, or family?