

STOWMARKET BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY BIBLE CLUB

5 APRIL 2020

Hello and welcome to this week's Sunday Bible Club... We are taking it in turn to write each week, and it is Jackie writing this week.

Take care of yourselves and we are all praying that you and your family will be kept safe and well.

With love from everyone at Sunday Bible Club

This week's story can be found in the Bible in Matthew chapter 27 verses 11 - 31, which says:

¹¹ Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"You have said so," Jesus replied.

¹² When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" ¹⁴ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

¹⁵ Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶ At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" ¹⁸ For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him.

¹⁹ While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

²¹ "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

"Barabbas," they answered.

²² "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

²³ "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

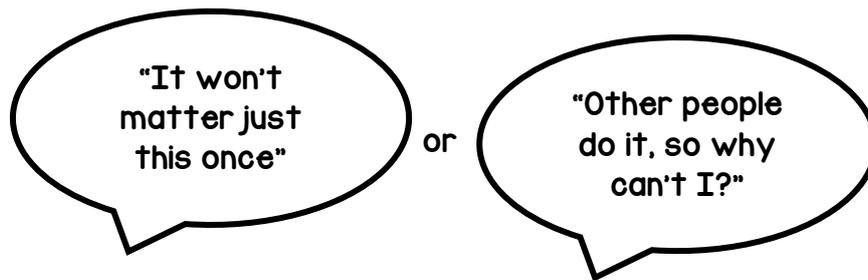
²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

²⁵ All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"

²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰ They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹ After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Have you ever wanted to do something that you shouldn't do? Maybe you made excuses like...



Today's story starts with a man who did something he knew was wrong. He knew he shouldn't, but the Religious Leaders offered him a lot of money (30 silver coins) and this shows us that he loved money more than Jesus.

Last week we learnt about the last meal Jesus had with his 12 disciples. It was a very special time they had together.

After the meal, Jesus and his disciples went out to pray in the garden of Gethsemane. But there were only 11 disciples, one of them was missing! It was Judas.

Judas had pretended to be Jesus' friend all of this time, but he had betrayed, turned against Jesus. He was willing to help the Religious Leaders, who were jealous of Jesus and wanted to get rid of him. How terrible!

While Jesus and his disciples were praying in the garden, crowds of people arrived.

They looked very angry and were carrying swords, spears and sticks. Some were soldiers and some were priests, but right in front, leading the crowd was Judas, he was showing the enemies of Jesus where they could find him, so they could arrest Jesus and take him away.



In the middle of the night, when most people were sleeping, Jesus was taken to the house of the High Priest. People were telling lies about Jesus because they wanted him to die. But remember Jesus had lived a perfect life, he had never ever thought, said or done anything wrong!



The High Priest was not allowed to put Jesus to death, only the Romans could do that. So, they took Jesus to the Roman Governor's magnificent palace. The governor's name was Pilate, he asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered "Yes, I am".

Then the priests told Pilate that Jesus had said wrong things about God. But of course, this is not true because Jesus is the Son of God. The priests didn't believe him.

Jesus did not get angry with them or answer back. He stayed calm and quiet because he knew what was going to happen to him. It was all part of God's plan to save and rescue all of us who believe and trust in Jesus.

Pilate knew Jesus had done nothing wrong, but he was so frightened of all the people, and losing his job, he wanted to please the crowd!

Then Pilate's wife sent a message to him...

"Have nothing to do with the innocent man, for I've had a terrible dream today because of him. Set Jesus free".

Then Pilate thought he had good idea. He told the people that he would let one prisoner go free, and they could choose.

There was Barabbas, who was a murderer and had done many terrible things, or, Jesus who had done nothing wrong!

Who do you think the crowd chose?

They wanted Barabbas to be set free from prison!

Pilate asked, "What shall I do with Jesus who is the Christ?"

The crowd shouted, "*Crucify Him*" - the shouting got louder and louder... "*Crucify Him*".

Then Pilate took a bowl of water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. He was trying to tell them that it was not his fault. But Pilate knew Jesus had done nothing wrong, and still let the soldiers take Jesus away to be crucified, to die on the cross.

The soldiers were very unkind to Jesus, they made fun of him and insulted him. They dressed Jesus in a purple/red robe, and put a crown of thorns on his head, and put staff in his right hand. They treated Jesus very badly.

Jesus did not deserve to suffer and die because he had done nothing wrong. He is perfect.

Jesus was obedient to God's plan, because he loves God's people and he knows that this is God's way to save them.

We leave this week's story in a sad place but next week we will see there are wonderful, amazing things still to happen.

